

THE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY OF TAROT

LESSON NO.

I



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ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson One

THE SOLAR SYSTEM (1)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

It is the destiny of each one of us to become masters of our fate. This course in Esoteric Astrology is aimed at helping you along the Path toward this achievement. It is in the usage of symbols, such as our Tarot Keys, that we learn to get away from the patterns that hold us in bondage to what are often called the astrological forces of the universal principles. It is also through the usage of symbols that we shall learn to become master of the stars by transmuting our responses to these forces that affect us every day of our lives.

Every one of the Tarot Keys is symbolic of you. As you know, twelve of the Keys are assigned to the twelve signs of the zodiac. Ten are assigned to the planetary forces which rule the signs of the zodiac. It is in understanding the psychological aspects of these Keys that we come to truly understand our place in the universe and who and what we are. Qabalah, in itself, is an esoteric aspect of astrology. Tarot is also an aspect of astrology, as is the Color and Sound course. They each show it in a different phase, yet they are interwoven with each other just like your cells are woven into each other. They fit into one whole, and in this work you will be given the training that will help you to synthesize all these ideas and symbols. Thereby you will learn how to contact the Higher Universal Forces and free yourselves from the unhappiness, the fears, the frustrations and the agonies that beset us all at times. Remember what Jesus said: "I, if I be lifted up shall lift all others unto myself." It is our obligation to become masters of our stars, not only for ourselves, but for all of humanity and for all of life. We are one creature marching together into the Infinite and from the Infinite, whether we be a so-called God or angel, man, animal, tree, flower or stone. Let's consider some of the principles behind the Esoteric Astrology of Tarot.

What is this universe that we see about us? We will go into a little astronomy at this point. Most of the greatest scientists have come out publicly to declare that the more one studies the heavens, the more evident it becomes that it is like one great consciousness at work. This is so. The physicists studying the most infinitesimal matter, which is the universe in its smaller aspects, have come out with the same conclusion. And why? Because with their telescopes they look out into the vastness of space. What they behold are nebulae upon nebulae; and what is a nebula? Actually, there are untold numbers of universes in the heavens. Our particular little universe is called the Milky Way. As we look out and study the heavens we discover there is an exact pattern that follows through and through. It is called the whirling spiral nebulae. There are vast distances between these nebulae. They are usually called island universes. The interesting thing about every island universe, every nebula, is that it has a peculiar nucleus, or center, that glows. Scientists do not yet know what this is composed of, though occultists do. This glow is observable. From out of this nucleus whirl cloud-like bands of gaseous particles. Out of these gaseous clouds, as they condense, suns are formed. This condensation has taken place because of the whirling motion. No telescope has been able to find the planets whirling around these other suns. It is certainly understood, however, by all astronomers who have figured it mathematically, that there must be an extraordinary number of planets around this extraordinary number of suns. Even our own Milky Way has an untold number of suns that have not yet been counted. So right now we will not consider the other island universes. We will have all we can do to understand our own planetary system in an effort to better understand ourselves.

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Whatever it is we are talking about, we are talking about the Divine Creator. We are talking about the Vast, Wondrous Consciousness. We are talking about the evolving consciousness which is apparent everywhere. And we are talking about you and me. When you ask yourself what you are or who you are, at this point perhaps all you can really say is, "I am something that is aware. I think. I have consciousness." You know you are a cell in the consciousness of God. Your consciousness is.

Let us work down to our own consciousness on a rational basis. Though this has not been completely proved by materialistic science, still, even materialistic scientists are pointing in that direction. Let us move inward from the vastness of our own island universe and try to see what our part is in this miraculous whole. Each of us is truly a center of the universe. Think "I am a center of consciousness and in my center of consciousness I can go out and expand in my imagination into a circle around me, out and out and out." This is what makes each of us so precious, so important. It is part of what makes it so vital for you to become aware of who and what you are. Always there have been wise ones in all ages who have known this. In this period there are far, far more.

The whirling begins, according to Qabalah, in Kether, the Crown, the One, the Universal Self, the Vast Countenance. Behind this, as you will recall, are the Three Veils of the Absolute. Beyond these veils we cannot go. It would be vanity indeed for us to think that we can comprehend the entire vastness of the Absolute Consciousness. We are a part of this Vast Consciousness, but we are not its All. One of the Veils of the Absolute is called Limitless Light. It is only in very recent years that modern science has discovered that the universe is composed of just that -- Limitless Light. This Limitless Light is called the Consciousness of God by the Qabalists. Wherever we look, if we see light we are looking upon the Consciousness of God. Part of our work is to train ourselves to see everything as nothing but pin-points of light. To expand our consciousness we must learn to perceive Infinity as it actually is. Though we cannot know this consciousness in its entirety, we can know its manifestations.

Qabalah teaches that from this Limitless Light, the One, the Universal, a self-contemplation starts. Remember, whatever is true of this Infinite Self-Contemplation is true of you and me. Whatever you start is due to your self-contemplation. When you get up in the morning you look into yourself and start contemplating. You might say, "What shall I do first? What next?" We are part of God's Consciousness with all the powers of that Consciousness, not yet fully realized or developed, but ever growing into our own self-knowing and our own kingship.

The Universal Self selects a portion of Itself. This self-contemplation is called the Beginning of the Whirlings. Astronomy says that the nebulae are formed from the whirling of a nucleus that whirls out gases which condense and compress into the flaming suns, and that the planets are formed from the whirlings and condensations of the suns. All this starts as a motion in God's consciousness selecting an area of Its Being for self expression. Apparently the Universal Self desires to express Itself in ever more varied ways. Apparently also, the universe comes into being through the desire of God. This desire of God is called by Qabalists the need of God to bring about the self-procreation of aspects of Itself. And the basis of this is Love.

We want you to start seeing yourselves and knowing yourselves as active, self-participating, conscious co-creators with God. Only so will you attain your destiny and will you overcome what are called the adverse influences of the stars.

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Our sun is one of many, but it is our particular sun, and we will concern ourselves with it more directly as we proceed with our studies. There are two schools of thought on how the planets came into being. One says that at some time or another a sun passed so close to ours that it pulled out a stream of our sun's hot, compressed gases, and as it left, some of the stream was pulled away. This stream went into the same whirling motion, due to the gravitational pull of the sun. Incidentally, gravitational attraction is love. The thing that holds you to the earth is a form of love. The universe is formed out of love, works on love, and all of evolution is an aspect of love. The other theory regarding the forming of the planets contends that as the sun condensed there were bits of gas that were not completely integrated into the sun. They were thrown out as in an explosion at the time of its greatest heat. At that time these whirling bodies became planets around the sun. In either case we can still say that the planets are children of the sun.

The thing that is pertinent to our study is the fullness of apparently empty space. We look out into space and it looks like it is empty, and yet, in various places you have these gases that form and start to whirl. You have nebulae in the act of being born and others that are billions of years old. The question is, where does it come from? Again, very happily, another scientific theory advances the idea that apparently there are always certain atoms being born in the universe at all times, just appearing out of nowhere. When a certain number appear within a certain area, the formation and the motion starts taking place. Out of nowhere? Where is nowhere? We know that these atoms that seem to appear out of nowhere can be nothing but the self suggestion of God's substance into manifestation for self-experience and observation. Not something outside of God. Something that occurs in God, just like when you dream, your figures are in your mind. They are not outside your mind. This entire universal system we look upon is not something outside God's consciousness; it must be taking place inside. It is, therefore, the creative thinking -- the creative expressing of the Universal Mind. When the planets become cooled down, certain very fantastic things start to occur. Let's take it in accordance with this planet, and then we will start to see a picture clarifying itself for us.

Do you know that the scientists have mathematically ascertained that for even one heavy molecule to create itself is an impossibility. It must have a creator, because it is organized. Can a typewriter create itself? Most of you feel, "Oh, yes, I know that God has already created the universe, so why do I need these scientific aspects?" This is not true. You do not know it until you have directly experienced your connection with it as a self-conscious unit of the Creative Spirit. You only know it now as a belief. You must know it as a direct experience. The universe had to be created by an intentional, purposive Creator. Can a machine of any kind create itself? Does it not take an intelligent builder to create it? In the same way can such a fantastic, orderly thing as the stars, the universal island system and the suns have been created by chance? It had to have had a purposive mind to create it. Therefore, everything you look upon that has any kind of form has to have had a purposive creator behind it. It cannot have happened by itself. Whatever you look upon was created for a specific purpose by a purposive Creator. Everything in the universe, including you and me, is made up of the same substance that the nebulae, the suns, are made of. We consist of atoms, which in a sense could be called the smaller outer aspects of life in motion, or electro-magnetic energy. Everything is made up of atoms. The nebulae appear out of nowhere and they go into a purposive motion to create specific conditions and specific structures. They are, therefore, a field of activity, of electro-magnetic activity, and that is what you and I are. Remember what it says in the Bible, that God created man in His image and likeness. Our organism is made up of the same substance that everything else is made of. Because of this we are related to

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the most distant stars. We are subject to the impact of all the energies of the universe. We emanate our atoms out. It takes about ten months for every atom that we hold in our particular field, our physical bodies, to emanate out all the old atoms and replace them with new ones. There are atoms in us that have come from the most distant star. We look into outer space and we see what we think is a star. It took the light of that star a million years to get here, so we are made up out of atoms that existed a million years or more ago.

We are going to show you how to consciously align yourself with these forces so that you can respond as you are destined to respond; so that you can stop being the slave of these astrological currents. In these lessons we are laying a foundation in an effort to show you just how the whole universe is based on an orderly progression for a purposeful reason. We shall learn to see what our relationship is to this universe. We shall do it in terms of analyzing each one of the signs of the zodiac. People interested in astrology have the idea that because they were born at a certain time they are basically whatever the sign is that they were born under. This is not exactly correct. We are the entire zodiac, every one of us. We do have different highlights astrologically which make us more susceptible to various energies from certain areas of the cosmos, thus making us respond more intensively to particular aspects. Nevertheless, it is our job to become actively the whole zodiac and not just what our Sun sign or Ascendant indicates. In astrology each sign of the zodiac rules a certain part of the body. Aries, for example, rules the head. We all have a head, whether the sun was transiting Aries at the time of our birth or not. In order to understand the function of the head and in order to understand vision, part of what Aries rules, we have to understand what it means in terms of Astrology and in terms of its esoteric aspects.

Taurus rules the throat, and we all have a throat. We, therefore, all have Taurus in our nature. We have it all, and we cannot be interested just in the Sun sign or Ascendant. This is one of the greatest of all delusions in Astrology. We are a concentrated expression in certain ways, but in one's chart it isn't just the placing of the Sun or Ascendant that is to be taken into consideration. There is the Moon that is placed in a certain sign and has a certain relationship with the total personality. There is Mercury, which pertains to our intellectual faculties. The vibrations of Mars are in a certain sign and relate to our volitional and sex drives. Venus also is in aspect to other planets and in a particular sign. Venus relates to our emotional, love and desire nature. You must understand that you are a miniature Cosmos. You must learn to relate yourself to the vast energies that pour into you and around you all of the time. You must learn how to respond on the higher vibrational levels -- how to take in the new atoms that are related to your Kingship and growth in evolution; how to emanate out the atoms of the lower kingdom which are part of your problems. Don't make the mistake of limiting your interest to just the sign that relates to you. This is part of the very limitation that has kept you in bondage to date. It is time we all become the whole creature as our Creator intends. Through knowledge we can consciously become the whole zodiac and release ourselves from the fetters of slavery to the very forces that we are destined to rule. ##

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Lesson Two

THE SOLAR SYSTEM (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

An explanation of the evolutionary process in relation to our organism is now indicated to complete our groundwork and help us to understand just what it is that we should be expressing in terms of our particular type of organism. What is an organism? You and I are part of a cosmic evolutionary scheme. It is very apparent when we look out at the universe that evolution is the way or means the Cosmic Mind brings about the development of ever wider expanses of self-experience for Itself and from Itself. When this planet finally came to its present stage, all done by the conscious mind of God, when it became so oriented that it could start developing certain forms of life, a new element entered into the apparent outer phenomenon. And remember this apparent outer, the universe, is not unreal. Our interpretation of it has been unreal. This we will come to understand by putting ourselves into proper relationship with it. As soon as this apparent outer form, the planet - which is a form in the mind of God - came to a certain development, then something very astonishing and wonderful began to occur. This we must take, at least for the moment, on faith.

Yet, examination of what we know scientifically will show us that there is more than faith involved in it because the life wave - the True Being, that which is the livingness of God - entered into matter. Matter, remember, is the substance of God. It entered into what you might call a relationship. This is what is called the involution of consciousness. A wave of God's life, you and I, entered into a primordial area of being, and began working with this substance in order to start shaping it into an organism for our own self-expression, which is God's self-expression. We are, of course, eternal living beings; but before we had adequate forms for expression our eternal livingness was not self-conscious. Don't forget, it is that which is immaterial, that which is not physical, which is the real life of us all. When a body dies it looks just the same as a body that is alive at first. But the living being, at death, separates itself from the external field of activity held together by the magnetic force of its own will, the will of consciousness, which ultimately is the One Will. When the soul, the cosmic being which we are, withdraws from the substance field of activity, you have a body that is called dead. Nothing is dead at all. The consciousness is just not keeping it in that form any more. Thus it is withdrawn to a state which is sometimes called heaven, or the astral world.

Agas ago, we entered into this state of substance together. With our creativeness, we formed ourselves the first type of organism, which was the first protozoa. You and I did that through God's Cosmic Knowledge of how to manipulate substance; through God's decision and purposeful idea that we would be creative children - creative aspects of God. Consciousness involves itself in the limitations of substance in order to learn how to manipulate this cosmic substance into specific forms with its own will and its own desire, so as to become ever greater creators and ever greater creations. Like unto our Father. Our Father and I are one. From that point, although we were each centers of the living God, we had not yet become individualized. This came when we reached the higher animal form of man. Nevertheless, the whole individualization intention was already there in God, and it is that drive in us which is God's will for us. This we must understand. So, we worked and we struggled, first through the protozoa type; then we developed more and more complex forms. At one stage we shared with each other in what is called the group soul, the knowledge we gained in the growing of substance for the livingness of ourselves. We shared with each other and thus gradually was formed what is called the instinctive mind. We often

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wonder what makes the bee with its hives know from the moment it is born how to go out and gather its honey; what makes the ant know how to go out and participate in its social group activities; we wonder what makes the bird know how to build a nest as soon as it reaches adulthood. No one taught them. They know because you and I learned and put it into the instinctual storehouse, which in Qabalah is called the Vital Soul that humanity shares with all life below it. We are all brothers and sisters in the evolutionary path. Each with a hand below, whether we know it or not, and each with a hand above, whether we know it or not. Now it is time to learn to know it consciously. Everything learned going through more and more complex forms, we learned through trial and error, like a baby learns how to walk. This is the way our creative, positive self-individuality was developed. It was by the impact of something against something else - the force against the resistance - our livingness against the resistance of substance, moving it, growing it, gathering together the materials from the elements. Think of a tree, its roots down in the ground. They know how to go out with their roots and feelers and gather the materials and water. They know how to turn their leaves to the sun and how to manufacture the chlorophyll. They breathe out oxygen and breathe in carbon dioxide. We breathe out the carbon dioxide for them and breathe in their oxygen. You and I breathe back and forth with all creation - we are not separated.

We have gone through all of these complex forms. We have been the forerunner, because we are the highest form of consciousness on this planet. We have been the forerunners of the development of all of these miracles. Behind us have come other waves of life, and we have made it easier for them. Masters of Wisdom and those beyond them and beyond them have gone ahead making it easier for us. We are now at the level of the higher animal - man - where the first real self-consciousness has developed. Some people get very upset at the idea of having evolved from an animal. We have not evolved from anything. We have created all of these forms because we are Godlets; form after form, in order to finally be able, with our consciousness, with our experience and knowledge, through our days and nights of living and dying and reincarnation, to finally come to this highest of all types of consciousness on this planet. We have the kind of consciousness that can be self aware - that can look out into the heavens and look into itself and say, "Who am I? - Where did I come from? - What is the reason for all of this?" We can start driving ourselves crazy; and that is when we really start taking a hand in our further evolution. That divine unrest has entered our consciousness and the grace of God is really resting in us, because this is the beginning of the drive to know and to do something about it.

So, we have now arrived at this organism we call Man. How does the embryo grow? We build our own form. We start as a single cell in the mother's womb that has been pierced by the father's life-giving sperm. Who grew that vehicle inside the mother's womb? We did. We did it through our instinctual mind, which we have fashioned for ourselves through pain and sorrow and terror, incarnation after incarnation. Self-preservation has been necessary. This helped sharpen the intellect for evolution. It is an essential part of the growth process that shall finally attain to mastery. You and I jumped with pain and fear when a twig snapped. You and I like the devil when we saw certain things that would endanger our survival. You and I fought tooth and nail for sustenance. We snatched from each other because the drive to live, the drive to survive, the drive to be was still in its primitive state. We had not yet achieved the full self-conscious drive to God. That is why, in certain psychological books, you will read about the reactions in human consciousness about 'fight or flight'. The cause of much illness, mental, emotional and physical, is because we still have instinctual reactions of fight or flight. We still have fears of the old dangers. We still react with a part of our nature to the primitive thing we have come through.

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This is why we are so often an automatic response mechanism to what is often called the malefic aspects of astrology. We don't have to be. So you see, we carry within us the whole development, the whole memory pattern of all we have fought through to attain to this magical, miraculous individuality. All of evolution presses toward higher and higher levels of consciousness. This is God's intention. God wants and needs, requires and is developing, individual centers of self expression. You and I have already attained the major part of this individualization. A great deal of our problems come from the fact that we still react today to yesterday. Our goal is to become master of our responses to the astrological forces which are part of our karmic elements.

Let us continue our perusal of the Solar system. You will recall from your earlier studies that in Qabalah the Christ Consciousness is related to the sphere of activity of the Sun. Tiphareth is the Sephirah related to this activity. It is taught that what we see out there is merely our way, through our limited senses of seeing a certain physical aspect of something that is other and more. If you want an analogy that will help, think of yourself for a moment. What we appear to be as physical beings is something far less than what we really are. Does our physical body show our consciousness? Does it show our thoughts? Can you weigh your love or your hate, your hopes or your despairs? The physical body is really the field of expression or sphere of activity for consciousness. Let's examine personality. It is an ever changing thing. When you were five years old you had one kind of personality. At twelve another; at twenty-one still another, etc. Personality is a changing thing at all times. In like manner, our responses to life are ever changing, too. Our dominion starts with our responses to life. . . our responses to what in astrology are called the influences of the stars.

In considering the Solar system, think of the sun as the outer representation of what is actually consciousness. Remember, consciousness is the creator. God, the Great Creator, concentrates a portion of His attention within a sphere of His being. This starts "The Beginning of the Whirlings" (see Tree of Life, Lesson No. 10). On the physical plane this whirling is manifest first as the nebulae. As the spiral motion slows down and cools off, the solar systems are formed. Our Sun, physically, is flaming gas bursting with heat. We experience it as heat and light. Let us take our minds and imaginations and wash them out into the heavens. The planet which we call Earth whirls around the Sun, just as the Sun with its planets whirls around some nucleus in the Milky Way. We are all residents and citizens of the heavens. . . of the cosmos. What is it really? What is behind it? The Sun, in actuality, is consciousness. The planets whirling around the Sun are part of the Sun's outer body, or physical body. Think of it this way. Think of the whole Solar system as being the physical body of a Vast Consciousness. Let's call this Vast Consciousness the Son of God. Is there anything against that? Of course, it makes us think of the pagan sun worshippers, doesn't it? But, do you know, they might not have been so very wrong, unless they were picturing it as only the outer thing. If we worship the outer aspect of ourselves, or anything else, all we are worshipping is a field of changing atoms. We are not worshipping anything that is constant or real, at all. The body is a changing aspect of self experience. There has to be a consciousness to hold a specific form. There has to be a consciousness to keep a certain group of rules or laws in motion. Remember, you are a special and unique individualization. You have struggled through untold millions of years to come to this glorious state that you are now. The fact that you are miserable, or unhappy, or that you have problems, that you weep, this is just part of the process that is your responsibility to overcome now. It is time to live with joy; it is time to fulfill desire; it is time for the prodigal to return to the father and receive all the riches that wait for his return. ##

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Lesson Three

THE SOLAR SYSTEM (3)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

One of the most important principles behind esoteric astrology is that this solar system, being One Being, encompasses everything that resides within it as an aspect of that Being, just as your hand is an aspect of your arm, and your arm is an aspect of the rest of your body. Every one of your organs has a job which works for the good of the totality of the physical vehicle. In like manner the physical aspects of our solar system have their parts. Mercury, for example, which is the planet closest to the Sun, is astrologically assigned to the intellect. Let's say that the outer aspect of the intellect, which is the consciousness of this solar system, is represented by the planet Mercury. In the same way the next closest planet to the Sun, Venus, is the outer aspect which is assigned to the feeling, love and desire nature of this Vast Being. Next in line is our Earth. Earth in this analogy represents the substance aspect of this Vast Being, which keeps pushing and probing and developing ever greater controls over substance.

The next planet out is Mars. The planet Mars is the outer representation of the inner aspect of consciousness which is related to volition, to will, to drive, and to the sex urge. Jupiter is related to the expansive aspect of beingness. That is why it is called the great benefic in astrology. The ideas of mercy and benevolence are related to Jupiter. God is individualizing us into self-conscious centers so that we may become conscious co-creators in, with and for that Vast Beingness. In order to increase our awareness, we must have the checks and the counter-checks. We must keep having the impact, the hammering, so as to deepen the cup of consciousness. Saturn symbolizes this impact or resistance phase of Beingness. Saturn is considered in orthodox astrology to be a malefic. Most people who know astrology are frightened by Saturnine aspects. He is the one who limits, who brings tears and sorrow and heartache. He presses you down, he frustrates you, he keeps things from happening immediately. He holds things off, that is . . . all good things, not the bad ones. This is the viewpoint of many exoteric astrologers. Accepting these ideas too dogmatically is what brings out the full negative aspect of Saturn, which is fearfulness. Actually, as most enlightened astrologers will admit, even though they have not overcome their fear, Saturn is the Great Teacher. The real truth of the matter is that Saturn is quite other than usually depicted in astrology. It seems malefic because we have not yet developed the proper response to what we call limitations. Life brings us these limitations so that we can evolve. Until we have developed the proper responses, we have quite a rough time with this 'Saturn' aspect. Accepting the suggestion that Saturn is an evil influence is part of the reason that we experience adverse circumstances under its influence. We will have more to say about this in a later lesson.

Next in order of the planets is Uranus. In the ancient times when astrology was set up, Uranus had not yet been discovered exoterically. The wise men, the Qabalists, however, knew there were still planets to be discovered. The reason they were not yet discovered exoterically is because mass consciousness, mass humanity, had not yet evolved to the point of response on individual levels to the higher vibrations of these outer planets. As mass consciousness evolved, the capacity for response to these higher vibrations developed . . . as the greater and greater Hi-Fi set within our own organism evolved, the outer planets were exoterically discovered. It happens inside first, before anything happens outside. Uranus

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is the planet which is influencing the forward movement in this dawning Aquarian age. It rules things like inventions, drastic changes and the development of social conscience. It is very individualistic. On the one hand it makes tremendous crackpots and fantastically unconventional people. On the other hand it includes under its influence those who have the courage to be unique; those, who like the Fool in Tarot Key No. 0, view the world from a higher vantage point than the majority of humanity. In its influence on individuals Uranus brings change. When humans are not willing to go along with change, Uranus knocks them right out of everything that they have - like a cyclone. It destroys that which we cling to, that which we have outworn but are unwilling to release. Though this influence often destroys, it always brings something better in its place.

The next planet out from Uranus is Neptune. Neptune is said to rule all the subtle subconscious levels of life - the psychic faculties. On the negative side it is assigned to things like deceptions, dope, alcohol, illusion and delusion. On the positive side it is responsible for our subtle sensitivities. It brings heightened awareness and responses to music, art, perfume and beauty in all its forms. The last planet out is Pluto, the latest find in our solar system. Pluto is said to rule the mass development of the New Age elements that have to do with all the levels of consciousness. Astrologers have been studying Pluto and all have a different idea of what it does or doesn't do. Because it has been so recently discovered, it has not yet been fathomed by exoteric astrologers. The Qabalists, however, left a place for it in Tarot. The 20th Tarot Key, showing the figures emerging from open coffins is assigned to Pluto. Thus the Pluto vibration is aligned with this symbolism of complete liberation from the mass mind subconsciousness and complete vibrational response to the heavens.

We have given you a very brief survey of the planets as they whirl around the sun just to show you that actually every one of these planets is an aspect of consciousness . . . an aspect of the expression of consciousness for this One Being. Here we are coming to a really important point. It is the Sun that has the light. The planets, the moon and the various moons around the planets - these have nothing but reflected light. Everything that is in existence responds to everything else. The impact from stars and nebulae that are millions of miles away in time and space are still making an impact on us. We are a part of this miracle. We make the mistake of thinking that the planets are outside of the sun. This is one of the first things we want to correct. The Sun with its planets is not one thing with several others surrounding it. We live and move and have our being inside the sun's rays. When we see what looks like the outline of the sun, we are only seeing one vibratory, flaming aspect of it.

The Sun is reflected by the planets, but the Sun is the real consciousness, the One Consciousness that they are reflecting. It hits these planetary bodies that are outer representations of parts of Its Being. The aspects made between these parts reflect back in certain combinations of forces. At the moment you were born the energies from the entire cosmos were coming in at a certain slant and meeting at a certain angle in relation to you. No two people can ever be in exactly the same spot at the same time - not even twins. Everyone who is born is a unique specialization. All the universal forces have come in at a special angle at the moment we drew our first breath. This tells a very significant story to those who know how to read it. That which you call your intellect is expressed through your physical brain so that it responds to certain vibrations in a special way. The angle of the way the Sun hit Mercury and reflected back to earth at the moment of your birth subtly influenced the way your thinking and intellectual processes were destined to express. This is just part of the picture. It is true that intuitive astrologers can prognosticate rather

accurately for the greater number of human beings now incarnate on this earth. But remember, all evolution is bringing us to individualization. This is the whole purpose. God is giving birth to Godlets. We are not supposed to be subject to the servitude of any forces whatsoever. Therefore, you can ascertain how a human being will react in terms of the conditioned reflexes of the masses only because that person has not yet become sufficiently individualized away from the mass conscious response to forces. You and I, however, are supposed to have individualized ourselves to such an extent that we are in control of our responses. As astrology teaches, the stars impell but do not compell. They do compell to a certain extent however, until we have learned how to understand who and what we are and how to control our reactions to the impacts of astrological forces.

We are going to show you how not to be automatic response mechanisms to astrological forces. As advanced students you are well on the road. If you stick with these techniques, it is inevitable that even in this incarnation you can free yourselves from slavery to automatic responses and habitual patterns of action. When you become master of your responses you will be master of your tomorrow.

As you have learned from the Color and Sound course, the signs of the zodiac rule specific parts of the body. Every part of our body has what you might call a radio receptive station and responds to the energies of the related zodiacal force. Therefore, we have several aspects to consider in order to understand ourselves. Every one of us has a head and a face. The Aries vibration, for instance, rules the head and face. In Tarot, the Emperor, assigned to Aries, is said to symbolize the reasoning faculty. In terms of physical function, the Emperor symbolizes sight or vision. We all need to develop our reasoning faculty, and we are all concerned with developing our inner vision. Therefore, we are all concerned with the Emperor and the Aries vibration that he symbolizes. We are not, I repeat, talking about somebody else who happens to be born in some particular sign in our zodiacal discussions. We are talking about you. You have a head and a face, the Aries area. You have a throat and neck, the Taurus area. You have shoulders and lungs, the Gemini area. You have all the qualities and responses and psychological tendencies of all the signs. What we are going to learn to do is to relate ourselves to every one of the signs. Then we will be able to function as needed in the positive aspects of any one of the zodiacal types.

Every one of the problems in your personal life is related to the fact that you have not rounded yourselves out. You have not cultivated the ability to enter into any one of these different parts of your beingness at will. There are certain highlights which give you certain extra gifts. This is fine. We will see what each sign's special gifts are. Even this, however, is very much conditioned by the placings of the other planets in the natal horoscope. We are a complex being, make no mistake. Believe me, this subject is a difficult one, but a rewarding one. These lessons will help you to start accepting everybody the way they are instead of the way you want them to be. You will develop your ability to tune into, understand and accept other people as you learn how to become every sign of the zodiac, at will. We're going to help you understand not only yourselves, but others heart to heart . . . to know how to tune into what people really are and what they really want. You will also learn what and who to run away from. There are some people who it is best for you to stay away from. Those who are strongly centered in the lower elements of their own beingness, those who are not open to the impact of the vibrations of love and acceptance, are better left to their own growing. There are certain elements that we cannot influence. Do not cast your pearls before swine. It isn't that we are exactly calling them swine, as though we were looking down on them. It is just that there is no point in wasting our energy in

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areas where there can be no reception at this time.

Remember we all have all the elements of all the signs. The sign where the Sun was positioned at the time of your birth colors your basic individuality. Where the Moon was shining at the time you were born is related to your subconscious nature and affects your responses to life. This is a very important thing that you will need to understand. Likewise, the time of day or night you were born determines the rising sign or ascendant which is related to your personality. In a way, your personality is the mask you wear for the world. We are not going to tell you to throw away this mask. We are going to help you understand that the mask is the way the Divine Life expresses the drama of Its Beingness. We are going to help you to find joy in playing your part in this drama consciously - putting on this mask or removing it at will. You are going to see why it is that the bible says: "And God created Man in His own image and likeness".

For this course you will find it helpful to have your personal astrological chart drawn up. We cannot draw up charts for you. It should not be difficult to find a competent astrologer to do this for you. Any astrological chart will show you that the placing of the sun is not the whole picture. There are more aspects to take into consideration than this. The sun may indicate, for instance, that someone is generous, open-handed, etc. Suppose, however, that the moon is in Capricorn in this hypothetical chart. This would show a tendency to be cautious, suspicious and restrained. These qualities could negate, or at least very definitely alter, the qualities indicated by the placing of the sun. You have probably found that some people do not express their sun sign at all, as could easily be the case in the above cited example. The moon element, or subconscious tendencies, can be more powerful than the sun element.

Most of us have been, up to now, what our mothers and fathers, teachers, books, etc. have told us to be. Few of us have had the freedom from mass conscious habit patterns to express out from the core of our being. Few of us have been able to truly be our individuality. In this course we will start knowing and being what we were meant to know and be. You are a miniature replica of the whole, and your destiny is vast and great. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Four

MEANING OF THE SIGNS

Astrology is an art, not a science. The astronomical phenomena of which it makes use are not considered from the point of view adopted by modern astronomy. The calculations upon which the making of a horoscope depends, are, in these days, so simple that the average eighth-grade child can be taught to erect an accurate birth-map in a few lessons. Like every other art, astrology does make more or less use of scientific data; but practical astrology, which if names mean anything is concerned with reading horoscopes, is distinctly an art, because it involves precisely the mental functions which are called into play by any other art. Intuition, the subconscious 'feel' for the significance of symbols, and above all, creative imagination, which works by subconscious processes of deduction to transform symbols into living realizations of the meaning of an astrological chart, are the powers called into play by the practice of astrology. These are the mental powers which this course is intended to awaken. Its object is to enable you to read a chart, whether you can make one or not. When you can read, then, if you want to learn how to make a horoscope, you will not be forced to hunt through books for its interpretation.

The signs of the zodiac are the primary elements to be considered in any chart. In order to avail yourself of the subconscious powers which will make it easy for you to read a chart, you should first of all learn thoroughly the meanings of the twelve signs. Learn also to make their astrological symbols, so that you can name them at a glance. All twelve are given briefly in this lesson. Detailed interpretations of each sign will be given later in the course.

ARIES — CARDINAL FIRE

Aries is the first sign of the zodiac and the first of the three fire signs, so it can be seen that this sign represents a starting point or beginning. Aries actually was the beginning of a cycle of manifestation. The keynote of Aries is: energy, action. Its qualities are: leadership, pioneering, impulse, will, control, reason, heading, constituting. Aries says: "Let me get ahead and stay ahead", "I do", "I will". People born under this sign are very energetic, enterprising, high-spirited, progressive, alert, bold, self-confident, strong in leadership. When there are afflictions the native tends to be rash, daring, take any kind of chance, combative, self-willed, takes no thought of consequences, destructive. It governs the head generally, the forebrain, the center of reason, upper jaw, palate, optic nerve, sight, true inner vision. Arians must learn to use their reason, their sight; this will enable them to see clearly into the true nature of things, and thus will they release power and avoid many of the difficulties and 'hot water' the Aries so often finds himself in. Tarot Key No. 4, The Emperor.

LEO — FIXED FIRE

Leo, second of the fire triplicity, is: vital, life-giving, strength. It vivifies, enlivens, centralizes, superiorizes; is basic, fundamental. This sign gives dignity, proper pride, regalness; is stately, cheerful, sunny, generous, faithful, high-principled, honorable, frank, idealistic, royal.

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Leo says: "I rule", "I am the center", "I radiate". When afflicted, Leos are: imperious, egotistical, patronizing, vain, autocratic, high-hat, and snobbish. It governs the heart, the back, the spine and the spinal cord. Leo is the Light Power, which is also the Life Power centered in the heart; it courses through the great main cable of the spinal cord, whence it is distributed by the nerves to every part of the physical organism. Leo must learn to direct this vital force outward, for the benefit of others; to think less of self; they must express their inherent love and joy; then shall they find true happiness. Tarot Key No. 8, Strength.

SAGITTARIUS — MUTABLE FIRE

Sagittarius, the third of the fire signs, is: electrical energy. This is the energy which tests and verifies. This testing is purifying in its nature. When one has tested and verified, one knows. Therefore, Sagittarius governs abstract knowledge and higher learning. The keynote of Sagittarius is: aiming, shooting-at-the-mark, will, direction, futurity, extension, distance, projection, propulsion. Sagittarius says: "I aim", "I hit the mark", "I penetrate", "I expand". Natives are: idealistic, mentally speculative, sporty, philosophical, outspoken, frank, quick, disputative, high-minded, religious, prophetic, preachy, witty. When afflicted these natives are: very impulsive, very argumentative (they know it all), too visionary, over-optimistic, gamblers, always preaching and giving advice. This sign governs the thighs and the tailbone. Tarot Key No. 14, Temperance.

TAURUS — FIXED EARTH

Taurus is aggregative (drawing together), gather-it-togetherness. Acquisitive, ingestive, retentive, conserving, creative. These people are firm, practical, material, commercial, slow, plodding, patient, enduring, quiet, determined, love peace and beauty. They are good, steady workers, provided they have security. The Taurus needs security to be contented. Natives of this sign have a great soothing and healing power, thus they do well with nervous, high-strung people as they are able to calm them. Taurus has a great inner strength that enables him to go through much adversity without breaking. When afflicted Taurus tends to be lazy, greedy, sensuous, dogmatic, stubborn, very determined, very explosive when aroused. They fear pain and get angry when hurt. This sign governs the cerebellum (back-brain), larynx, lower jaw and mouth generally, the ears and thyroids. Taurus is bestowed with the gift of hearing interiorly to the One Voice. When he learns to use this wonderful faculty, which is known as intuition, he will have access to all he needs to know concerning his problems and will thus discover the peace which he so longs for. Tarot Key No. 5, Hierophant.

VIRGO — MUTABLE EARTH

Virgo analyzes, breaks down, tears apart. "Let's see how it is made." It is separative, discriminative, much attention to detail, shrewd, hygienic, clean, methodical, modest, pure, bashful, non-assertive. These natives make excellent scientists, chemists; great mechanical ability often found in this field. Like working with food and clothing. They are very active, seldom contented long at a time. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. Great reformers, very critical. This sign governs the liver, small intestines, pancreas, solar plexus. It is the work of the

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY: 4

Virgo area to break down and assimilate food, which is then sent to various organs of the body and transmuted into bone, tissue and the secretions indispensable to physical existence. So this tearing down process of Virgo is extremely important. Tarot Key No. 9, The Hermit.

CAPRICORN — CARDINAL EARTH

The keynote of Capricorn is climbingness. Like the mountain goat, its symbol, these people go way up or down. There is nothing half way about this sign. It is domination, rulership, control. It limits, retards, represses; has authority, supremacy. Natives are executive, ambitious, reserved, forceful in action, tactful, prudent, cautious, saving, dutiful, truthful, invective, introspective. They have a tremendous desire to be at the top. They know what they want and work persistently to achieve their goal. When afflicted they are bossy, very domineering, have a great craving for power, are extremely meticulous, strict disciplinarians, overly cautious, miserly. If they fall instead of rise, they drink to excess and become 'bums'. Theirs is the will to fail rather than to succeed. This sign governs the skin, knees, teeth and bones generally. Tarot Key No. 15, The Devil.

GEMINI — MUTABLE AIR

The keynote of Gemini is duality, two-ness, linking-up-ness. Anything that links up is Gemini in quality. It links, connects, relates, transmits, translates, discriminates. Power to perceive differences, correspondences. These people are good reasoners, logical, adaptable, learn easily, interested in acquiring knowledge. Mentally quick and active, versatile. These natives are very mental, consequently they do not have stability or stick-to-itiveness. They are very clever with their hands, are ambidextrous. This is considered to be a cold sign because it is detached from feeling. Gemini prefers to observe life rather than take a real part in it. It is well not to overload these people with too much burden, as they can't take it and have a tendency to bolt when the going is difficult. They dislike making decisions, but are willing to follow the advice of those who will make up their minds for them. They are nervous and high strung and need a calmer sign as a partner. They tend to procrastinate and put things off. Gemini governs the nerves, hands and arms, lungs, bronchi, trachea, neck, esophagus, Fallopian tubes. Tarot Key No. 6, The Lovers.

LIBRA — CARDINAL AIR

Libra is: equilibrium, adjustment, balance, let's-agree, justice, reciprocal, exchange, harmony. These natives have a sense of perfect balance, a great love of beauty. They are poised, courteous, affable, artistic, love music and dancing. A wonderful sense of rhythm, mild of manner, sensitive. Often very spiritual. Their heads are always in the clouds, and they are dreamers. They prefer to ignore the ugly; they live in a world of their own out of the rosy cloud in which they envelope themselves. Libra is a capable sign, but they dislike work that might soil their hands. They make good book-keepers and appraisers, have ability to weigh things up, balance the books. Afflictions make the native indecisive, exhibitionist (likes to show off), susceptible to flattery even if it is undeserved. Revengeful; too exacting. This sign governs the kidneys, adrenals, lower back generally. Tarot Key No. 11, Justice.

AQUARIUS — FIXED AIR

Aquarius is associational. Where Libra is concerned with two or partnerships, Aquarius is an association or group. It is cooperative, interchanging, coordinating, designing, re-arranging, vibratory, abstract mental. These natives are inventive, cooperative, friendly, interested in the occult, the unknown. Governs electricity, radio, sound waves, and light waves such as X-rays, etc., as well as large corporations, groups, associations. These natives are: friendly, kind, humane, brotherly, progressive. When afflicted they tend to be erratic, extremely hasty, revolutionary, temperamental. This is the sign associated with meditation, which is the process of search into the unknown. Aquarians need to regulate their lives and thus make full use of their forces. They tend to do too much erratically. This sign governs the oxidative processes, retina, lower legs (calves). Tarot Key No. 17, The Star.

CANCER — CARDINAL WATER

The keynote of Cancer is: containingness, protection, help-him-grow-up. Associate it with a fence, field, enclosure. Enveloping, maternal, nurturing, formative, fecundity, growingness, feminine, surrounding, receptive. The home, especially the father. Natives of Cancer are protective, motherly, fond of home, sympathetic, sensitive, psychic, highly imaginative, very fussy about little things; want to surround and hold their own. Prudent, cautious, retentive, conservative, good memory. When afflicted, they are: dominating, over-tenacious, reversive, contrary, moody, oversolicitous, grabby, sentimental, over-romantic. Perpetual naggers. Cancers should learn to expand their fields, to let go, to think in terms about the greater and not be so involved with the unimportant. They should learn to weigh and judge the relative importance of things. This sign governs the protective parts of the body: stomach, pleura, ovaries, testicles, breasts, chest generally, pregnant womb. Cancer is the Vehicle, the movable fence, the field of expression for the One Self. Tarot Key No. 7, The Chariot.

SCORPIO — FIXED WATER

Scorpio is: excretive, throwing-off-ness, dissolution, death, release, eliminative, cleansing, change, transition, transforming, penetrative. The tearing down of old and impure structures in order that energy can be released for the creation of the new, the better, the more enlightened. Natives are magnetic, heroic, forceful, dramatic, imaginative, resourceful, energetic, penetrating. They see through surface appearances, are intense, complex and prophetic. When afflicted: possessive, suspicious, brusque, aggressive, sarcastic. Critical and combative with a desire to eliminate all that stands in their way. Scorpio governs the reproductive organs with its energy nerve force, and the excretory parts of the body: bladder, large bowel (colon), rectum, urethra, nose. Scorpio is the power of the Deep that can soar to the Heights (Eagle). Tarot Key No. 13, Death.

PISCES — MUTABLE WATER

Unification is the keynote of Pisces. "Let's-make-them-all-alike." Renunciation, giving up, martyrdom, dissolving, hiddenness, nebulous, you-can't-put-your-finger-on-it. Chaotic, non-resistant, homogeneous, agree-

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ment, undiversified, all-inclusive. Natives are very sympathetic, understanding, have universal love, feeling of oneness with all life; are fond of animals and nature. Likes simplicity, enjoys being alone. Mystical, spiritual, dislikes quarrels and violence, timid, won't stand up for themselves, very easily swayed and influenced. Secretive, quiet, reflective, reversal. When afflicted they are: aimless, drifting, not definite, utter selflessness, furtive, no backbone, peculiar. These people should set goals for themselves so they have direction and know where they are going; be more definite and specific. Sacrifice is constructive when one knows what his goal is and is willing to give up the lesser in favor of the greater; but to give up just because it presents the line of least resistance is not constructive. Pisces governs the feet and toes (understanding), duodenum, and general cellular consciousness. Tarot Key No. 18, The Moon. ##

Attached: Chart of Qualities, Elements and Aspects

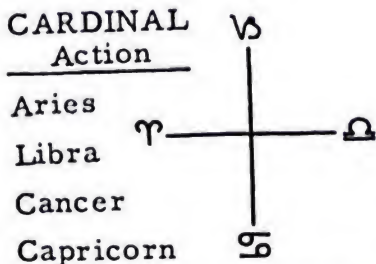
ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY: 4

CHARTS OF QUALITIES, ELEMENTS AND ASPECTS

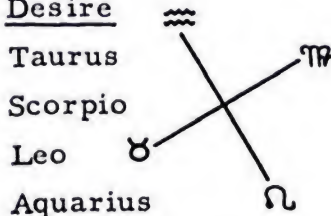
Each sign is endowed with a certain quality and element. It is important that you fix these classifications in your mind.

QUALITIES

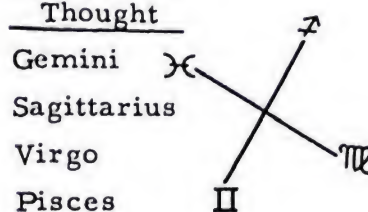
CARDINAL Action



FIXED Desire



MUTABLE Thought

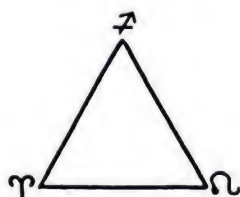


Note:- The signs at the opposite points of the crosses are 180 degrees apart, or in opposition; or 90 degrees, or square to each other.

ELEMENTS

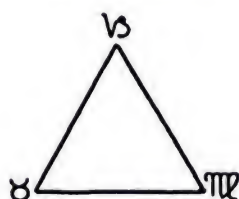
FIRE

Aries
Leo
Sagittarius



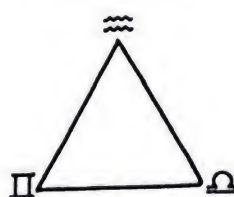
EARTH

Taurus
Virgo
Capricorn



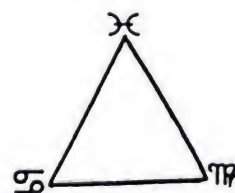
AIR

Gemini
Libra
Aquarius



WATER

Cancer
Scorpio
Pisces



Note:- The points of the triangle are 120 degrees apart, or in trine aspect to each other.

SIGN

Aries
Capricorn
Libra
Cancer

QUALITY

Cardinal
"
"
"
Fixed
"
"
"
"
Mutable
"
"
"

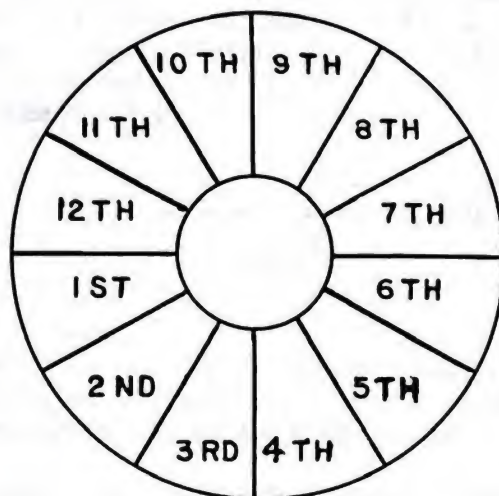
ELEMENT

Fire
Earth
Air
Water
Fire
Earth
Air
Water
Fire
Earth
Air
Water

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Five

THE TWELVE HOUSES



In a horoscope chart, the CUSP of the house is the line dividing it from the preceding house.

The cusp of the 1st house coincides with the Eastern horizon; that of the 4th house corresponds to the Nadir, and to midnight; that of the 7th to the Western horizon; that of the 10th house to the Zenith.

No matter what signs are placed upon the cusps of the houses, or what planets are in those signs, each house corresponds fundamentally to the sign of the zodiac which has the same number in the order of the signs as the number of the house in question.

Thus the 1st house always has something of the quality of Aries, the 2nd something of the quality of Taurus, the 3rd something of the quality of Gemini, and so on. Consequently, if the sign Gemini, for example, be on the cusp of the 1st house, although planets in that house and in Gemini also will partake strongly of the quality of Gemini, there will be also an undercurrent of the Aries influence blended with that of Gemini, and this must be taken into consideration. Thus any sign in the 1st house will be modified by the typical qualities you have learned to associate with Aries, such as impulsiveness, the desire to be at the head of things, and so on.

Each house also governs the same part of the body that is ruled by the sign to whose number it corresponds. Using the same example, if Gemini were in the first house, and the Sun were afflicted in Gemini, there would be the usual Gemini weaknesses in the region ruled by that sign, but there would also be, because the 1st house rules the head, and the eyes in particular, an indication of a tendency to nervous headaches and to weakness of the eyes.

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In addition to the special correspondences of the houses to the signs, the houses also are associated with certain other matters which are tabulated below:

1st HOUSE: Personal appearance, and to some extent, general character and fortune. The cusp of the first house is called the Ascendant, and the sign on this cusp, any sign intercepted in this house, and any planet in this house are regarded in astrology as being particularly important, especially with relation to the outer appearance and personality. Rules the head.

2nd HOUSE: Relates particularly to money and possessions. In this connection, remember that Taurus, the 2nd sign, represented wealth in the days when astrology began. Thus our word "pecuniary" is from the Latin pecus, cattle. Rules the neck, throat and ears.

3rd HOUSE: Brothers, sisters, cousins. Short journeys, letters, documents and other writings, books, education. All these meanings relate more or less evidently to the fundamental meanings of the sign Gemini and its ruler, Mercury. Rules the shoulders, arms, hands and lungs.

4th HOUSE: Dwelling-place, house and home, property in lands or houses, domestic life, the parents. The mother in a man's chart, the father in a woman's. Its general meaning corresponds closely to that of the sign Cancer. See the 7th Tarot Key, where houses and protection are prominent in the symbolism. Rules chest, breast and stomach.

5th HOUSE: Affairs of the heart (which is ruled by the sign Leo). Pleasure, adventure, love-affairs, children. Also speculation. Rules the heart and dorsal region of spine.

6th HOUSE: Servants, whether domestic or business; employment under others. Small animals and pets. All matters of health or sickness, and such work as is connected with medicine and nursing. Rules the intestines.

7th HOUSE: Adjustments of all kinds, hence, particularly, marriage and partnerships. Legal matters. Open enemies. Rules the kidneys and in general the same area of the body as Libra.

8th HOUSE: Death, and also great changes. Wills and legacies. The financial affairs of the business or marriage partner. Has to do with warfare, surgery, and also with all practical occult forces and their use, through its affinity with the sign Scorpio. Rules the same parts of the body as Scorpio.

9th HOUSE: Long journeys, whether actual travels, or the long journey of the mind in quest of knowledge. Affairs in distant countries. Religion, churches, philosophy, higher education. Publications (especially books). Dreams and mystical experiences. Brothers-and-sisters-in-law. Rules the same parts of the body as the sign Sagittarius.

10th HOUSE: Occupation, which brings to us the bulk of our problems and difficulties. Worldly standing and ambitions. Employers, masters and superiors — "those to whom we must bend the knee". Father in a man's horoscope. Mother in a woman's. Rules the knees.

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY: 5

11th HOUSE: Associates, friends, acquaintances, company. Hopes and fears. Wishes and aspirations. Gain or loss through acquaintances and friends. Rules the legs from calves to ankles.

12th HOUSE: Sympathy, charity, help given and received. Private and secret matters. Psychical experiences. Limitations, restraint. Hidden enemies. The particular house of the subconsciousness and its occultism. Rules the feet. In some senses one of the most important houses to the rightly instructed student of astrology.

This week practice blending the qualities of the signs with those of the houses. Consider the influence of all twelve signs in the 1st house. Then do the same with the 2nd house, and so on through the 12th house. ##

Attached: Chart of Rulerships and Exaltations of Signs

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY: 5

CHART OF RULERSHIPS AND EXALTATIONS OF SIGNS

In astrology there are always three things or factors that we deal with, i.e.:

(1) PLANETS

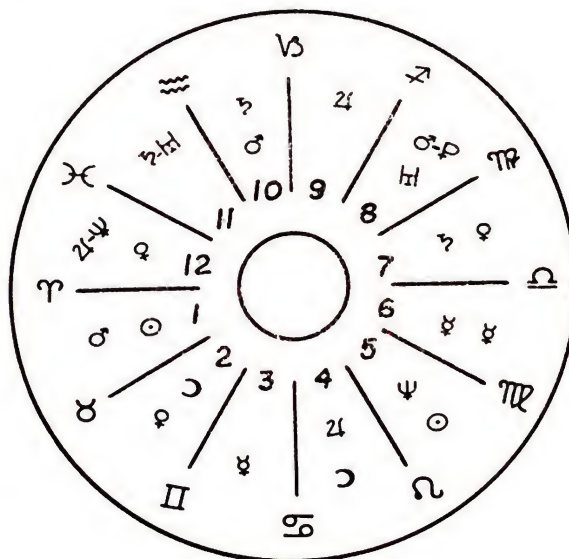
(2) SIGNS

(3) HOUSES

Planets are influences. Signs denote qualities. Houses are destiny. The zodiacal circle surrounding the earth is an imaginary circle, divided into twelve parts. These twelve divisions are called Signs of the Zodiac.

The planets, as they travel around the zodiac, exert influences according to their own specific nature or vibratory tone. There is a corresponding vibration existing between certain signs and planets. Planets that have the strongest affinities with signs are either the rulers or are exalted therein.

The houses are also divided into twelve. These twelve houses are the departments of life and show the destiny of the individual.



<u>HOUSES</u>	<u>SIGNS</u>	<u>PLANETARY RULER</u>	<u>EXALTATION</u>
1	Aries	♈ — ♂	Sun
2	Taurus	♉ — ♀	Moon
3	Gemini	♊ — ☿	Jupiter
4	Cancer	♋ — ☾	Neptune
5	Leo	♌ — ☼	Mercury
6	Virgo	♍ — ☿	Saturn
7	Libra	♎ — ♀	Uranus
8	Scorpio	♏ — ♂-♇	Mars
9	Sagittarius	♐ — ♃	Jupiter
10	Capricorn	♑ — ♄	Saturn
11	Aquarius	♒ — ♄-♅	Saturn - Uranus
12	Pisces	♓ — ♃-♆	Jupiter - Neptune

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Six

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLANETS IN HOROSCOPE

The SUN is the indicator in a horoscope of the fundamental purpose for which a person has taken incarnation. From the Sun's position by zodiacal sign and house, we determine what aspect of the Life-Power is the fundamental expression of the individual. This shows, so far as the Sun's position in the sign is concerned, what are the innermost tendencies of the person's life. Thus it is from the Sun's position that the heart's desire may be judged.

The Sun's position by house (which can only be known if the birth hour is given) indicates the field of the individual activities. Thus the Sun in Aries gives one the fundamental Aries temperament, whatever be the house in which the Sun is placed by the birth-hour. But if the hour was such that the Sun is placed in, say, the 6th house of the chart, the forms of the individual expression will be different from what they would be if the Sun were in the 1st house. Judge, then, the nature and temperament and innermost qualities by the Sun's position in the signs, and judge the field of activity in which these qualities will be expressed by the Sun's position in the houses.

THIS SAME PRINCIPLE HOLDS GOOD IN THE JUDGMENT OF ALL PLANETS BY THEIR POSITION IN SIGNS AND HOUSES. IN FORMING YOUR JUDGMENT LOOK FIRST TO THE SIGN, AND THEN TO THE HOUSE. THE LATTER CORRESPONDS TO THE CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH THE QUALITIES OF THE PLANET AND SIGN ARE EXPRESSED.

REMEMBER, TOO, THAT WHEN A PLANET IS IN THE 1ST, 4TH, 7TH or 10TH HOUSE IT IS STRONG BY HOUSE-POSITION. IT IS WEAKER BY HOUSE-POSITION IF IT BE IN THE 2ND, 5TH, 8TH OR 11TH HOUSE. THE HOUSE-POSITION IS WEAKEST IN THE 3RD, 6TH, 9TH OR 12TH HOUSE. But this applies only to the influence of the planet in external affairs. Its effect on the inner life should be judged by the sign position and aspects (these to be considered later).

The MOON is regarded by some astrologers as the indicator of personality. I doubt this, for the ascendant or rising sign seems to be more truly the indicator of the personal elements of a life. The Moon is more correctly judged if it be thought of as the significator of the subconscious inheritance from past lives. Where the Moon is placed by sign and house shows what lessons the incarnating Ego has brought to this life with him, and what use he will make of those lessons. When the Sun and Moon are placed in signs and houses which are harmonious by nature, the subconscious and individual elements of the life will be harmonious. When they are placed in signs and houses inharmonious to each other, you may look for some conflict between the subconsciousness and the inner life of the individual.

The Sun's correspondence in the Tarot is Key No. 19, and with relation to astrology this Key points out the fact that the Sun's sign-position in a chart is an indication of potencies to be developed, just as the children in Key No. 19 have to grow into maturity.

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The Moon's position is better understood if we think of the Moon's Key in the Tarot. Key No. 2, The High Priestess, stands for the Moon. There you see The High Priestess as the keeper of the records of the past, as the mistress of memory, as the recorder of stored-up experience.

In astrology, the Sun is said to be the ruler of the fifth sign, Leo. Thus whenever it is in that sign, it is regarded as being strong, or dignified. If it be placed in the opposite sign, Aquarius, it is thought to be in its detriment, and the solar vigor and vitality are somewhat obscured by this position. If it be placed in the sign Aries, it is said to be exalted, and this is the strongest sign-position for the Sun. If the Sun be placed in the sign opposite to Aries, Libra, it is said to be in its fall and this is the weakest sign-position for the Sun.

The Moon rules Cancer, is exalted in Taurus. Its sign of detriment is Capricorn, opposite to Cancer. Its sign of fall is Scorpio, opposite to Taurus. Applying what has just been said to the Sun's house position, it will be seen that it is strong in the 5th house, strongest in the 1st. In the 11th house it is weak. In the 7th it is weakest. Similarly, in the 4th house the Moon is strong, but strongest in the 2nd house. In the 10th house it is weak, but weakest in the 8th.

If the Sun were in Libra in the 1st house, it would be weak by sign but strong by house. Therefore we would judge that the vitality of the person was not great, but that in his affairs he would probably take the lead more or less. Similarly, if the Sun were in Aries, but in the 11th house, its power we would judge as very strong, but it might be somewhat dissipated or weakened in its expression.

THE PRINCIPLE SHOWN BY THESE EXAMPLES HOLDS GOOD FOR ALL PLANETS BY SIGN AND HOUSE. CONSIDER IT WELL IN MAKING A JUDGMENT.

MERCURY is the significator of the conscious mind. It corresponds to the Tarot Key named The Magician. It is the planet to be considered always in judging the mentality. Mercury rules two signs, Gemini and Virgo. In the first it expresses through the airy quality of the sign and is more concerned with purely mental affairs. Its position here is also an intensification of the instability of Mercury, since the sign is dualistic. In Virgo it expresses a higher, though a more occult, vibration. Hence Mercury is also exalted in Virgo, which means that the highest qualities of the mind are expressed in the powers associated occultly with the sixth sign. Here is a clue to the great secret of alchemy, for it is in the conscious mind's control of the assimilative processes of the intestinal tract that we must look for the transmutation of personality which changes an ordinary human being into an adept. Mercury is weak in Sagittarius, and weakest in Pisces. Mercury is strong in the third and sixth houses, but strongest in the sixth. It is weak in the ninth house, and weakest in the twelfth.

Practice judging the quality of these three 'planets' in the twelve signs until you know at a glance just what the combination indicates. Then combine the planetary Tarot Keys with the zodiacal in making your judgments. Practice judging the planets by house-position also. Remember that each house has somewhat the quality of its corresponding sign. (For

example the 1st house has somewhat the qualities of Aries, etc.) Thus you can judge a planet's house-position by combining its Tarot Key with that of the sign corresponding to the house. Only the judgment will relate more particularly to external affairs than to temperament.

VENUS is the significator of the emotional nature, and of the subconscious process that germinates mental imagery. Thus Venus is said to be the ruler of the arts, all of which depend upon imagination. She also rules financial matters and love affairs. Financial matters, because imagination is necessary to success in any business. Love affairs because they are fundamentally emotional. In Tarot, Venus is represented by Key No. 3, The Empress. Careful study of this Key will aid you in interpreting the influence of Venus, for the symbolism of the picture sums up all that astrology says of this planet.

Venus rules Taurus, the second sign, and Libra, the seventh. She is exalted in Pisces, the twelfth sign. In Taurus she governs the emotional nature principally. In Libra her influence upon imagination makes itself most evident. In the sign opposite to Taurus, Venus is weak, and she is also weak in the sign Aries, opposite to Libra. Her weakest position by sign is in Virgo, the sign opposite to Pisces. Pisces is her strongest position, and in this sign she is to be regarded as significator of those mysterious powers of the subconscious mind which have to do primarily with building the body and controlling its functions through creative imagination blended with a strong emotional urge.

The 2nd and 7th houses are strong for Venus. The 12th house is her strongest house-position. The 1st and 8th houses are weak positions for this planet. Her weakest house position is in the 6th house. Venus is friendly to the Moon, but she is ordinarily inimical to Mars, although there is an occult correspondence between Venus and Mars which will be dealt with later.

MARS is the planet primarily of physical action. It also governs all the motive powers of the organism. Its Tarot Key is No. 16, The Tower, where the disintegrative effect of this planet is shown with great emphasis. Mars is impulsive, hot, dry and electric, like the Sun, but more intensely so. Its work is disintegrative, transforming, motive. Mars rules Aries and Scorpio. In the first its influence is felt in the head and brain as intense impulse and as motor energy, often applied to destruction. In Scorpio, which is the sign governing the generative process, the most potent of the Mars influences are to be sought, even though this planet is said to be exalted in Capricorn. For it is in the Mars center near the Scorpio area that the great force used in occult practice resides. In Capricorn this force has its strongest expression, as the power which breaks down opposition and enables us to transform problems into opportunities. Mars is weak in Libra and weak in Taurus. It is also weak in Cancer. Similarly it is weak in the 7th and 2nd houses, and weakest in the 4th.

JUPITER is the planet of cosmic laws and their operation in human personality. It represents in a large way the influence of the universe upon the personal life. Its general quality is expansive and fortunate. The Jupiter center in the human body is the solar plexus, the abdominal brain which is the storehouse of the cosmic memories or Akashic records. Jupiter is strong in Sagittarius and Pisces, and strongest in Cancer. It is weak in Gemini and Virgo, and weakest in Capricorn. Similarly it is strong in the 9th and 12th

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houses, and strongest in the 4th. It is weak in the 3rd and 6th houses, and weakest in the 10th. The Tarot Key corresponding to Jupiter is Key No. 10, The Wheel of Fortune.

SATURN is the planet of condensation and limitation. It is that most closely associated with the outward forms of things, and with the structure that gives solidity to form. The ancients regarded it as unfortunate, but esoteric astrology knows that it is so only when misunderstood. Saturn governs the signs Capricorn and Aquarius and is strong in both. It is exalted, and strongest, in Libra. It is weak in Cancer and Leo, and weakest in Aries. Similarly it is strong in the 10th and 11th houses, and strongest in the 7th. It is weak in the 4th and 5th houses, and weakest in the 1st. The Tarot Key corresponding to Saturn is Key No. 21, The World.

URANUS is the planet of occultism. By rightly instructed astrologers it is understood to be the 'octave' of Mercury. Its influence is similar to that of Mercury on a higher plane. It has to do with the mental approach to hidden things, and is the significator of all things sudden and unexpected. Uranus rules, and is strong in, Aquarius. It is exalted in Scorpio, where its power is strongest. It is weak in Leo, and weakest in Taurus. Similarly it is strong in the 11th and strongest in the 8th house. It is weak in the 5th, and weakest in the 2nd house. Its Tarot Key is No. 0, The Fool.

NEPTUNE is the planet of mystical and psychical unfoldment. It is the 'octave' of Venus. It represents the subconscious development of the knowledge of higher laws. It is emotional like Venus, and affects many of the same things that are affected by Venus. Neptune rules Pisces, where it is strong. It is exalted in Leo, where its influence is most potent. Occultists who know what can be done with the heart-center will see the force of this astrological dictum. Neptune is weak in Virgo, weakest in Aquarius. In the houses, Neptune is strong in the 12th, and strongest in the 5th. It is weak in the 6th, and weakest in the 11th. In the Tarot, Neptune is represented by Key No. 12, The Hanged Man.

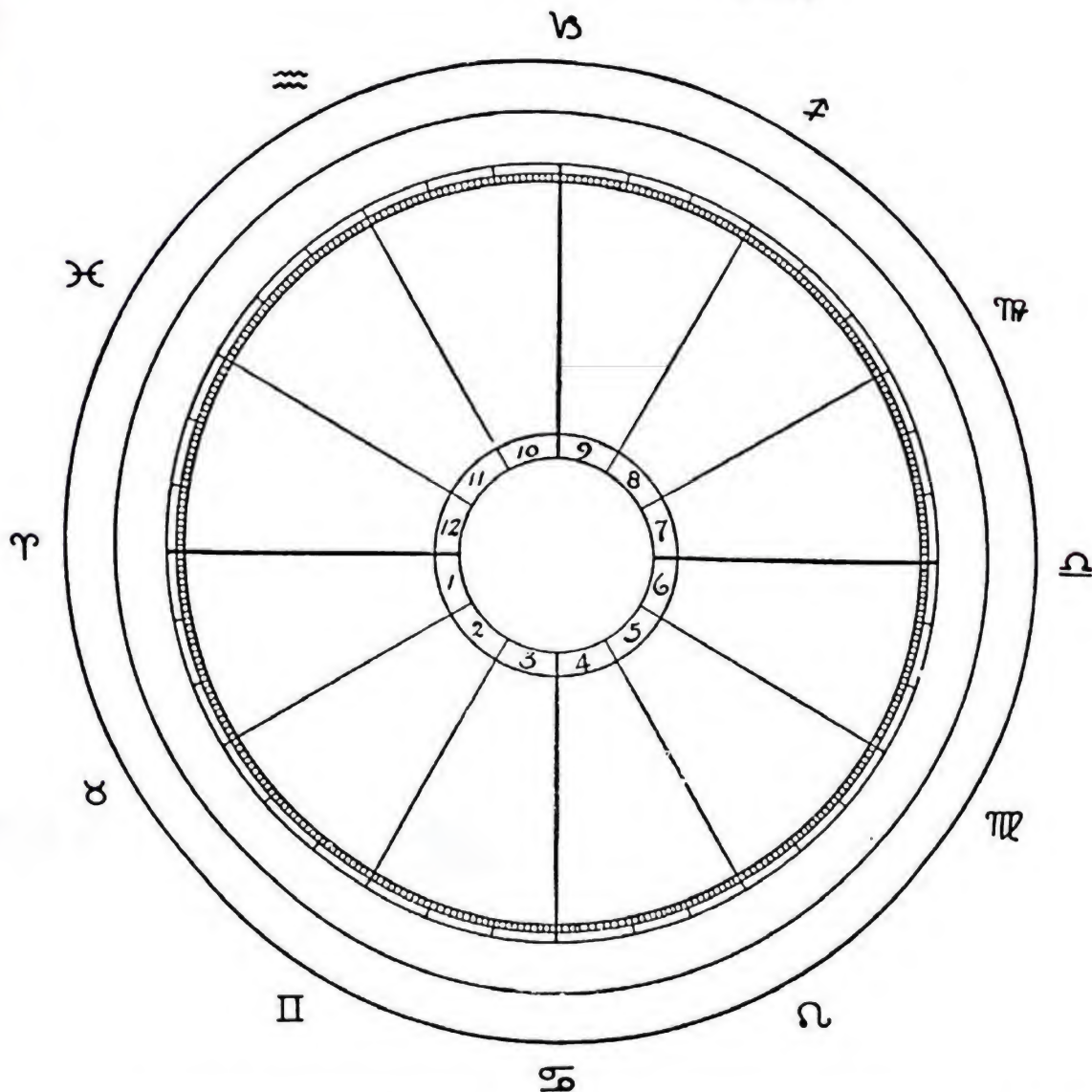
PLUTO, the latest planet to be discovered, is said by most astrologers to be the 'octave' of Mars and co-ruler with Mars in Scorpio. Astrologers have not agreed on an exultation for Pluto as yet. Pluto is represented in Tarot by Key No. 20, Judgement.

Practice judging these planets by signs and houses, as suggested on page 2. A more detailed explanation of the planetary influences will follow in later lessons. ##

Attached: Chart of Houses and Signs

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CHART OF HOUSES AND SIGNS



The whole wheel revolves every 24 hours. Signs move clockwise at the rate of one degree every 4 minutes, or about 2 hours per sign.

Example:- The sun rises in Aries at about 6:00 A.M. The sun is then in the 1st house. By noon Aries is in the midheaven and the sun will be in the 10th house; at 6:00 P.M. in the 7th house; at midnight in the 4th house; and by dawn in the 1st house again.

The most important step in erection of a chart is to establish the correct Ascendant. Never work from sun charts. Rising sign or Ascendant is the degree of a sign as it rises over the eastern horizon at the moment of birth. The Ascendant governs the physical body, the outermost habits and actions, mannerisms, the looks in general. The Ascendant is the vehicle through which we express this present life. Houses always remain stationary. 1st house is always the one on the eastern side or the one on your left as you face the chart; 2nd just below the 1st, etc. Signs denote inherent qualities or tendencies. Houses are destiny or the departments of life. This is the important reason for establishing the correct birth time. Houses tell us what department of life planets and signs are working in.

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Seven

EXPLAINING THE WHEEL

The wheel of the zodiac accompanying this lesson is practically a summary of all that has been said hitherto concerning the influence of the luminaries and planets in the twelve signs of the zodiac. In the small circle at the center of the wheel you will see the numbers of the signs in their natural order. These are also the numbers of the houses in any horoscope, no matter what signs are present in those houses.

In the circle just outside this are the symbols of the planets ruling the corresponding sign. Thus, next to the number 1 is the symbol of Mars; next to the number 2, the symbol of Venus; next to the number 3, the symbol of Mercury, and so on around the wheel.

The third circle out from the center (bounded on either side by double lines) contains the symbols of the luminaries and planets which are exalted in the corresponding signs. In the first space, corresponding to Aries, is the symbol of the Sun, exalted in Aries; in the second space, corresponding to Taurus, is the symbol of the Moon. This arrangement continues around the circle. **NOTE THAT NO PLANETARY SYMBOL IS SHOWN IN THIS CIRCLE IN THE SPACES NUMBERED 3 AND 9.** Neither Gemini nor Sagittarius is the place of exaltation for any planet or luminary.

In the fourth circle from the center are the names and symbols of the twelve signs, plus the colors corresponding, the notes of the musical scale, and (in Roman numerals) the numbers of the corresponding Tarot Keys. Close to the double line which divides this circle from the one containing the symbols of the exalted luminaries and planets, you will also see the symbol of the triplicity (Fire, Earth, Air or Water) to which the sign belongs.

In the fifth circle out from the center are given three key words which describe the fundamental characteristics of each sign. These apply most strongly to the individuality, when the Sun is placed in a sign. But they also apply to the effect of the sign on whatever luminary or planet is in that sign. Thus the mentality is represented by Mercury, and if Mercury be placed in Aries, you may say that the person's mental qualities, so far as self-conscious awareness is concerned, are: enterprising, pioneering and impulsive. If Venus were placed in this sign, the person would be emotionally enterprising and impulsive. And similarly with the other planets.

The sixth circle from the center is divided into 36 parts, each part containing 10° of the zodiac. These 36 sections are what are known as the 36 decanates, and in the sixth circle are shown the luminaries and planets ruling these decanates. Thus reference to the diagram will show you Mars as ruler of the first decanate of Aries, the Sun as the ruler of the second decanate, and Jupiter as the ruler of the third division of 10° in Aries. Similarly, Venus is the ruler of the first decanate of Taurus, Mercury the ruler of the second division of 10° , and Saturn the ruler of the third 10° .

These rulerships of the decanates follow a regular rule, so that you can easily determine, when you have mastered the rule, just which planet is the sub-ruler of any decanate. In any sign the first decanate is ruled by the ruler of the sign itself; the second decanate is ruled by the ruler of the sign of the same triplicity next following in the natural order; and the third decanate is ruled by the ruler of the second following sign of the same triplicity. Thus the first decanate of Aries is ruled by Mars, which also rules Aries; the second decanate is ruled by the Sun, which rules Leo, the next fiery sign after Aries; and the third decanate is ruled by Jupiter, ruler of Sagittarius, the second fiery sign after Aries in the natural order. In order, then, to determine what are the rulers of the decanates of any sign, simply count around the zodiac to the next sign of the same triplicity and take its ruler as the ruler of the second decanate of the sign you are considering. Then count around to the next sign of that triplicity and take its ruler for that of the third decanate of the sign you are considering.

These decanate rulerships are important, and they modify that part of the sign that they govern. Thus you will notice that the general characteristics of Aries are designated by the key words: enterprising, pioneering, impulsive. These particularly refer to the influence of Mars over the whole sign. In the first decanate this Mars influence is even stronger than anywhere else in the sign, hence impulse becomes impetuosity, and the key words of the decanate are given as: impetuous, spirited, active. In the second decanate the general influence of Mars is blended with the special influence of the Sun in that 10°, and the key words which represent this blended influence are: exalted, enthusiastic, loyal. In the third decanate the influence of Mars is combined with that of Jupiter, and the key words are: generous, religious, idealistic. But note that in this instance the generosity will be impulsive, the religious nature will be active on the side of pioneering and experiment in this field, and the idealism will be aroused by the consideration of practical enterprises in which ideals can be expressed in action.

Any luminary or planet in a decanate is modified in its influence by the special quality of that decanate, and this blending of influences is one of the main points in fine analysis of a horoscope . . . and the power of a planet is stronger if in a decanate that it rules, or in a decanate that corresponds to the sign in which that planet is exalted. Thus the Moon is strong in the first decanate of Cancer, in the third decanate of Scorpio, and in the second decanate of Pisces. It is also strong anywhere in Taurus, but particularly in the first decanate, and strong also in the third, or Taurus, decanate of Virgo, and in the second, or Taurus, decanate of Capricorn, because these decanates have the Taurus quality in which the Moon reaches its greatest heights of power.

The outermost circle of this diagram contains the dates when the Sun is in the corresponding decanates. These dates, however, are only average, and in any particular instance should be checked by reference to the ephemeris for that year.

Weakness of luminaries or planets is also judged by the same principle that has just been mentioned. Thus the Sun is in its fall in Libra, and will be correspondingly weak in the Libra decanate of any airy sign. It is in

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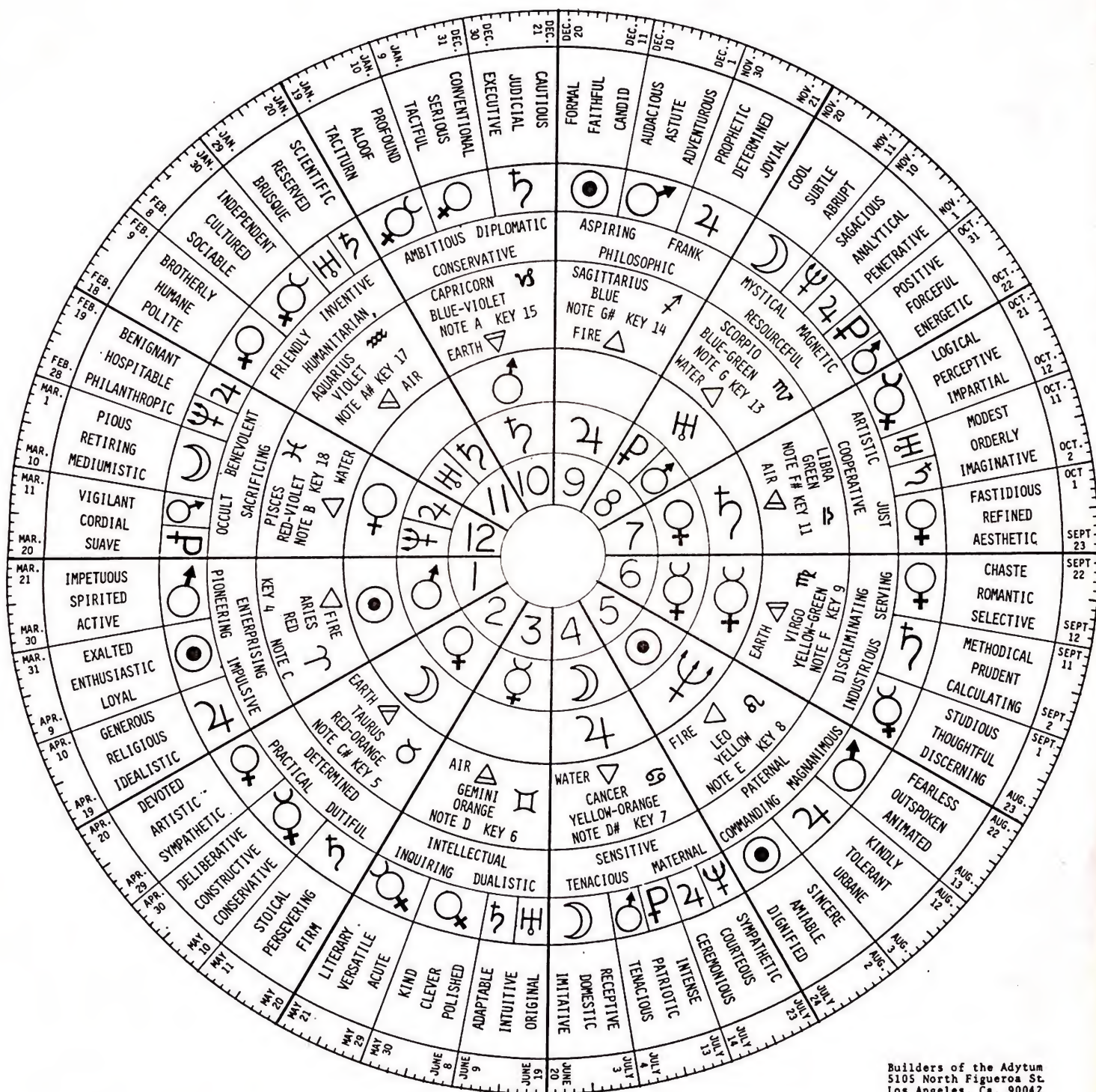
its detriment in Aquarius, and will be correspondingly weak in the Aquarius decanate of any airy sign. This, indeed, is one of the reasons for the astrological dictum that the airy signs are less vital than the others.

The student should pay particular attention to the planets which are opposed to each other in the second circle from the center of this diagram. There it is evident that Mars is opposed to Venus, Mercury to Jupiter and Neptune, the Moon to Saturn, and the Sun to Saturn and Uranus. The careful consideration of these oppositions in connection with the Tarot Keys that correspond to these planets will do much to deepen your intuitive knowledge of astrology. Remember that intuition does not take the place of knowledge. Before you can read a chart intuitively, you must fix deeply in mind the fundamental nature of the planets, signs, houses and decanates, so as to be able to avail yourself of the working of intuition.

Intuition is largely very rapid assembling of the various points of knowledge. When you first learned to tell time on a clock face, you had to study very carefully what now you see at a glance. That was so long ago that you have forgotten the process, but if you will watch a child who is just learning to tell time, you will see the process at work. It is similar with this astrological work. Nobody can progress rapidly in it at first. There must be continual drill. The combinations must be gone over again and again, and slowly reasoned out, until they are firmly impressed upon the subconsciousness. When one is patient and persevering in these preliminary studies, the result is real ability to judge a horoscope, without any reference to books whatever. ##

Attached: Chart of Wheel

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY OF TAROT



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5105 North Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90042

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ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Eight

THE AQUARIAN AGE

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Every one of us is not just a member of this planet. We are not even just participants in a specific life-wave. We are also one with the World Soul. Along with that, we are part of a Solar System which is really our larger body. From this point we can see ourselves as aspects of a galaxy, and so on into the infinity of the Universal Order. We must consider these relationships in order to better understand what we are and what it is that is the goal of life on this planet.

A Cosmic plan exists that has to do with Esoteric Astrology — the astrology that is related to Tarot and Qabalah. Certain special forces from the Cosmos, from other solar systems, are now entering the atmosphere of our planet. These energies are being concentrated and directed toward our earth to effect its evolution. This plan has to do with the New Aquarian Age long predicted as the herald of the true brotherhood of man on this earth.

This Aquarian Age cycle has already begun and has definitely brought with it a new energy. There is a focus of cosmic rays connected with this cycle which make us more open to the kind of consciousness that exists in life waves that are more highly evolved than the planetary earth life waves. In this era is an intensification of the ability for this to occur in larger groups. It is part of the New Age plan. We of B.O.T.A. are not the only ones working on this plan. There are many on this planet who are working on other phases of the plan. In B.O.T.A. we are utilizing the Mystery School training system that includes Tarot and Qabalah. This is considered by the Inner School to be the most advanced method available. It requires people who have above average mental and emotional capacities. Our work is not for everyone, but only for those who have reached a point where they are ready and willing to work diligently toward a better understanding of their own nature and that of others — ready to become the complete zodiac instead of just one sign. Training school centers are aimed at helping us not only to overcome personal Karma, but more specifically to become such strong centers within our own being that we can help transmute the World Soul through our actions and knowledge. Actually, at a transition time like the end of one age and the beginning of a new age, there is a bringing together of many types of life waves. This is a time when those born in this life wave, or those who were left behind from higher life waves, can overcome their soul sicknesses and psychotic tendencies. That is why this is such an important time. All these extra forces give a great opportunity for forward movement.

Every age is approximately 2,100 years long. We have just left the Piscean Age. This means that the Sun had been whirling in its cycle through a part of the heavens called Pisces. 2,100 years before that it whirled through the Aries section of the heavens. Right now it has moved from the Piscean to the Aquarian division. A whole new cycle is starting with a different part of the heavens involved. This means that our Sun with

its planets is now being influenced by a different part of the galaxy. This influence heralds in an influx of consciousness from new areas of the cosmos. The whole Solar system has just entered into a stream of energy that is affecting our earth in a particular way. This new energy is making it possible for all kinds of consciousness, wherever it is in the galaxy, to progress toward much higher levels of consciousness than we can even image at the present stage of our awareness. The energies which we are now receiving from the universe are aimed at bringing about this new development of consciousness to all members of humanity who are able to utilize these higher rates of vibration. Those of us who are able to take these stronger rates of vibration are the ones who will go on into a complete brotherhood of man era. Those who are not yet able to comprehend and assimilate these energies will be the dropouts. They will be sent to the next planetary "hospital" to evolve at a slower rate and await another opportunity.

That is why there has been such a population explosion at this time. It has just been in the last few hundred years that we have been able to start working intensely toward this new era. Now each year and each day bring us that much more ability and opportunity for advancement. It is up to those like you and me, who aspire to higher levels of awareness, to take the responsibility — to see that we get enough of this new energy going so that fewer of our human brothers will be left behind. In other words, it is up to us to give whatever is necessary to the mass mind so it will be easier for those who are below us on the Path to achieve and evolve and attain enough awareness of Reality to evolve with the New Age. The few of us who have attained enough individuality so that the mass mind does not push us around with hatreds and delusions of separateness must unify our efforts to bring in the energies that will help others overcome the negative deluded aspects of our planetary consciousness. We have been preparing for this particular era for a long time. We must work toward making our bodies more and more aware and sensitive to the vibrational forces which are coming in from other parts of the universe. God needs each and every one of us as a center of this kind of higher conscious expression.

In Esoteric Astrology we work to better understand our consciousness and the consciousness of others. We work to gain control of the planetary forces that are above us in the heavens as well as within us, thereby balancing these forces and improving our relationships with others. In doing this we not only change our Solar system, we actually begin changing the universe. This is our positive contribution to the total evolution of consciousness. It takes personalized centers, such as we are, to get to work on transmuting the World Soul. We cannot, apparently, succeed in helping all individuals we wish to help, at least not in this incarnation, because different people have different levels of response. All individuals have different correlations of energies. Keep in mind that the variations are the very things that give us our uniqueness, our individualization . . . make us a pillar of strength in God's Temple, forever. We can work to help others see the Light as long as we remember that we are not out to change them to conform with what we think they ought to be. There are people who have personality expressions that do not at all correlate with ours, just as some chemicals explode if they are brought into too close proximity with each other. It doesn't necessarily mean that there is anything particularly wrong with the other individual. Certain chemical

compounds are immediately attracted, while others are immediately repelled. These vibratory affinities or repulsions also affect human relationships. We must develop an ability to discriminate between those who are ready in this incarnation for higher knowledge and those who are not. We cannot force anyone to partake of knowledge no matter how much it means to us. There is no more futile effort. When people are ready for the Path, they will find us. We can help transmute the World Soul by transmuting ourselves first and being an example to those who are ready.

All humanity shares seven centers of force in the body, but these are dispersed in different strengths, relationships and levels of expression. Every human being who has evolved to the point of being able to grow a human body has these same centers of whirling force in different combinations. Each of our charts at birth indicate the relationships of the different functions of our nature one to the other. The day, the hour and the year show the coming together of specific energies in specific ways. Some of these energies are somewhat opposed to each other; others balance and enhance each other. The angles of relationships, or the aspects of the planets one to another, as shown in our birth charts, influence our mental, emotional and physical responses to life. This has much to do with the vibration of the 'word' . . . the creative word of consciousness which each of us is. There is a way in which you might say that we are the playing of different chords or combinations of vibrations in our expressions of personality.

Our birth charts will show us that we have certain energies that are not too happy together. These are the planetary forces that meet at 90° angles and are in square position to each other. They often indicate frustrations, weaknesses and problems that we will have to face, but they are nevertheless angles of force which can be used to advantage when we learn how to cope with these more intense vibrations. We will also find indicated in our birth charts certain happy relationships between angles of force. These are the 60° sextiles and the 120° trines, and they usually indicate opportunities, talents and positive personality traits. These angles of one planet to the other in relationship to the earth are referred to as aspects. Other important aspects to be taken into consideration are the conjunctions and parallels. They are of equal strength. The conjunctions are two planets in close proximity to each other and indicate a blending of forces. Parallels are in the same degrees north and south of the equator. They are considered both benevolent and adverse, depending on the planets that are making the conjunction. For instance, a conjunction of the Moon with Venus is considered benevolent and indicates a charming, happy-go-lucky personality, usually smiled on by fortune. A conjunction of the Moon with Saturn, on the other hand, indicates frustrations and a cool, sober disposition. In the final analysis, such a conjunction can deepen the nature through sorrows and problems to such an extent that the person has evolved considerably under its influence and has gained insight into his own nature and the nature of others, while the Moon/Venus conjunction has not had that opportunity for growth.

These aspects are a most important part in reading an astrological chart. Exoteric astrology often misses the point in over-maligning the square or difficult aspects. Actually, these are what give us the conflicts that drive us to awakening. We can choose how we are going to work with

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these energies. This is what I mean when I say that we are going to learn to become rulers of our Solar System. The important thing is to have energy angles. It does not matter what they are. Once we become aware of our energy angles, we can direct them for our own growth. Remember, consciousness is the creator at all times. Your consciousness can take any and all angles of force and make them what it will. Your control of these forces will become more and more potent as you learn how to will in harmony with the Divine Plan. As long as we continue to work against the Divine Plan, we continue to get our repercussions. We are all in training, so to speak, learning to use these energies in such a way that they are more and more in harmony with the Universal Order. You advanced B.O.T.A. students are much more than average aspirants. You are ready to take up the real training that is going to make you masters of your personal solar system, which is, as you know, within you.

It doesn't matter what aspect you have in your natal chart, because through the use of the symbolic imagery of Tarot you can turn any and all aspects to your advantage. You can take every one of the whirling planetary centers of force that are within you and put them in whatever relationship you want for whatever situation you are faced with. In other words, you can re-align them within your nature and thereby re-align your relationship to the whole universe.

Next week we will begin our study of the planetary forces in detail. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Nine

SATURN (1)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

In this lesson we are going to begin our study of the planetary energies, an understanding of which is imperative before we can comprehend the zodiacal types. We will relate these energies to our own personal solar system so as to see how we influence each other and are all related within the larger solar system. This will include a step by step method for becoming masters of our interior stars, which in turn will give us the ability to master the forces of nature which surround us. Each of us is a point of expression for consciousness. Each of us takes in all the energies of the universe at all levels. There is no light coming from any star that is not a part of what we are expressing and a part of what is expressing us. This relatedness extends out into our solar system, into our galaxy, and on and on out into the infinite heavens.

The first planet which will concern us is Saturn, connected in occultism with the awakening of the Kundalini. Saturn, in our interior solar system, is correlated with the center at the base of the spine. Kundalini is the Eastern name for the energy that is said to be concentrated in this base of the spine center. We in the Western Tradition call it the Saturn center, and it is represented in Tarot by Key No. 21, The World. Please bear in mind that Saturn, in exoteric astrology, is thought of as that which indicates or reveals Karma in an astrology chart. In a sense this is quite true. Saturn is the name for the energy focused in you and your finer vehicles, which holds the patterns of your potentialities in your body like a wound up spiral. The energy that is focused in that particular area of your finer vehicles holds a record of everything you have ever been. It is very similar to the idea of that first infinitesimal fertilized egg, smaller than the dot over an i, that started off your physical body. It held within itself the pattern for all your subsequent physical growth. Now, a newly born infant is not a completed human being at all. It is still an embryo because it does not remotely have the same form or the same abilities to think, feel, do, etc. as in its maturity. This is just part of the growth process which takes place in one area. The rest of the growth process takes place in another area of, shall we say, the universal womb. The mother's womb is an aspect of the universal womb. We are born out of the mother's womb, but it is just another condition of the same basic process.

In like manner, there is no doubt at all that wound up in the Kundalini is an energy pattern of our past accomplishments and failures which are to be 'matured' during a given incarnation. You have heard about the genes and the memory of the genes. That gene memory is very much correlated with this energy that is called the wound-up serpent, or the 'Serpent of Wisdom'. He was the one who tempted Eve in the Old Testament. These words have meaning other than we have heretofore understood or realized. What we have to see at this point is that Tarot Key No. 21 holds, symbolically, the visual imagery that involves the karmic patterns of you as a person and also of you as a species. You as a species and you as a person are inter-related and co-related. We all must work from where we are —

at the personality level. As we transmute our personalities, comprehending our unity with the All, then from the personal level our influence washes out into the species.

Notice how the figure in Tarot Key No. 21 is holding two spirals. These spirals are emanating potent energies. They move in opposite directions. This is very symbolic of one of the latest findings in physics: the whirling motion of the electron around the nucleus in an atom has an opposite whirling motion. They call this motion the mirror image and speak of matter and anti-matter. These are just terms for the two opposite whirling motions. Whenever one motion exists science has come to recognize that there must be the other. The two opposite whirling motions really involve the idea of consciousness, as such, setting itself in the center of whirling motion which expresses as a mirror image in the opposite direction.

Your universe of matter is the result of your universe of consciousness. That is why Saturn is said to be the planet that symbolizes the principle of manifestation. In fact the Divine name, Elohim, attributed to Binah, the sphere of Saturn, is given to the principle that manifests, that brings together, that limits. This is where the idea of the dark Terrible Mother originates. Limitation is something we all fight. We have to learn, however, that if we couldn't limit ourselves, we couldn't know anything as a thing. We wouldn't have the ability to see, to know, to experience details in relationships.

There is still a part of us partaking of the primeval type of energy that has a wild freedom. This type of conscious energy says "I" and has nothing correlated with the "I". Just "I". This primal "I" consciousness is always being bound together by the other part that says "I" — something specific. This particularizing principle is related to the Saturn aspect, although its function is symbolized by Tarot Key No. 1, the Magician, related to the power of attention. This Saturn center is the aspect that we begin with. It is a whirling energy source in one of our finer vehicles. It has within it the vital energy related to the entire principle of manifestation; not just in the solar system, but in the entire universe. In occult work it is utilized in a special manner. The energy must be unwhirled in a conscious manner — in a trained manner. As we unwhirl that energy consciously, it energizes the whole spinal cord. On either side of the spine are the solar and lunar currents of the Great Magical Agent. They are definitely electrical in operation. In the Chinese philosophy they are called the Yin and Yang. In Hindu philosophy they are called Ida and Pingali. These are the forces that relate to the positive and negative electrical currents. Unless we utilize both, we have no power.

The energy at the base of the spine is really a vortex of force, something like an ice cream cone. The narrowest part of it melts away into the immaterial level of consciousness and the wider part is the part that expresses in physical manifestation. If you will think of that force as starting from the narrowest part and then whirling outward in a spiral, it will give you a better idea of what we mean by your centers. Don't mix them up with your physical body, although they have a physical level of contact. It is similar to a radio set picking up energies from the atmosphere. You know that when you tune in on a station, the radio set is not

making the music or the broadcast. You know that it is merely a receiving station condensing the energy of the radio waves so that you can experience it within a limited range. In the same way, think of these whirling centers of force as coming from a level of your being that is not physical, even though it has its physical area of expression. This physical area of expression, incidentally, is what gives us the ability to evolve. Without the physical level, evolution as we know it would be impossible. It is the condensation and the expression into the physical that gives us the ability to know and experience and grow, thereby becoming something more than we were. Otherwise we would all remain free, ecstatic, primitive "I".

The Saturn energy in you is not a malefic energy. It isn't the energy that gives you bad karma. In fact, karma is not necessarily bad. Indeed, all karma is really good. It is all a development, within the sphere of action from one level of understanding and growth to ever higher levels. Looking at it from the higher evolutionary point of view, there is no such thing as bad karma. There is only the continuous inter-reaction of experiences that forces our consciousness to know and understand what it is working with, so it can become an ever more proficient sculptor, artist, actor, musician. Your sour notes are merely the way that you learn to be a little more careful in hitting the right keys at the right time. In the relative sense, we do have what we call difficult karma, and we do have people who can be called nothing but deliberately evil. We are not running away from that because a true occultist does not hide his head in the sand. We have to recognize that, relatively speaking, there are evil people who are on an immature level of their consciousness. They will eventually overcome their selfish, unwholesome, cruel acts, because the repercussions from anti-social actions finally teach them the delusion behind selfishness or separateness of any kind. They are going to suffer — they can't help it. It is all in the training process. Error in action is what brings the disciplines and the pains. Binah on the Tree of Life is the Sphere of Saturn because she symbolizes the first limiting, manifesting power. In reality she is the disciplining, loving, nurturing mother image that is growing the soul to become something ever more glorious. That is why there is a female figure in Tarot Key No. 21.

All of your Karma is tied up in the energy patterns that we call Saturn, but it has to do with how that relates to the rest of the centers. Overcoming karma does not mean you are going to overcome cause and effect. What will happen is that the process of growth is speeded up under the influence of occult training. We have more experiences faster and learn to pay our karmic debts in 'higher coin', so to speak. Even the Masters of Wisdom are subject to the law of cause and effect, which means the reactions from action, whether it be in thought, emotion or deed. We are going to try to start releasing ourselves from the un-needed repercussions of unwise action. We are going to start releasing ourselves from being habit-response mechanisms to some of our older patterns. Most of us have fallen into the same patterns over and over again. For example, people tend to pick the same kind of person to become involved with, even though they think the person is different. Then they are surprised when they find themselves faced with the same kind of problems. We also tend to enter into the same kind of situations over and over again, even though it seems that we have changed. Then, of course, we are faced with the same repercussions and life seems to be a merry-go-round to nowhere. We are going to try to release ourselves from these useless patterns of repetition, because we can never release ourselves from prob-

lems. Problems to solve are a part of evolution.

Examine Tarot Key No. 21 in relation to the Saturn force. Look at the dancer seemingly free of the physical level. This is showing you that the causative aspect of life is not physical. Causation stems from consciousness, universal and individual. The four fixed signs of the zodiac symbolize the impingement of universal forces that bring about the manifestation of our basic past karmic levels. Remember you can't get away from your karma. Anyone who wants to is just being very foolish, because it is impossible. What you can do is to "burn the seeds of karma" so to speak. This means that by beginning to understand the patterns that have kept frustrating us, by overcoming our past habit-riddled actions, we can bring a change in consciousness. This change whirls us into the next level of understanding. Then we will find that at least the problems we face are different problems. Now that's evolving! We want to understand our compulsions and our emotional responses thoroughly, so that we don't have to go through these continuous repetitions of similar problems, as we have been doing in the past. Thus we are adding to our ability to create new patterns, new matrices for the One Self to express through. We are holding up the cup of life for new levels of consciousness and experience. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Ten

SATURN (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

In this lesson we are going to relate Saturn and Uranus as aspects of the Kundalini energy. Uranus is the co-ruler of Aquarius with Saturn. Saturn, the original ruler of Aquarius, is connected with the limiting principle of life. Uranus, discovered just about as the Aquarian Age dawned, shows as much freedom as Saturn, according to the exoteric astrologers, shows lack of freedom. In Tarot, however, we show you that it is not a lack of freedom. It is limitation within a mapped out area, depicted in Key No. 21 as an oval resembling the cosmic egg.

Within limitation there is freedom. Without limitation freedom would be meaningless. The primordial essence is a state of screeching ecstasy. There is no awareness of anything. In order for manifestation to occur, this primordial "I" must go through compression after compression. Astronomy shows that the creation of every single body in the universe takes place through compression. Form results from compression. Compression is the limiting of the freedom of the energy of life, whether it be on the subtle planes or on the physical plane. The manifest universe is the flower of compression.

The idea of freedom can be expressed in human terms only when we have also accepted the principle of discipline and understood it. Realize that limitation is what has made you a human consciousness. Without limitation you would not be able to be conscious of yourself as "I", experiencing other things appearing to be "not I". Some people mistake this concentrated primal consciousness for Samadhi, but it is not. It is a regression to a primordial state. True Samadhi is a disciplined experience and comes through the discipline of meditation. This is indicated by the fact that Tarot Key No. 21, symbolizing Saturn, is also related to the function of Cosmic Consciousness. It is through ability to limit — the Saturnine quality — that Cosmic Consciousness comes. The limiting of light through a magnifying glass can start a fire. Limitation is not something to fear. It is something to worship. Limitation is not something to run away from. It is something to understand and use. Until we learn to achieve our own spiritual freedom, limitation will seem to bind us. We are driven by the necessity of evolution and we are slaves to our planetary centers. We are particularly slaves to the Saturn energy which is depicted in our horoscopes as the aspects, conjunctions, progressions and transits of the planet Saturn. We are slaves to these movements until we learn how to take this apparent limitation and make it that which frees us.

In occultism, as well as in exoteric astrology, it is very definitely recognized that this Saturn force is the teacher. It is rather ridiculous to be afraid of the teacher, isn't it? It is the teacher who is going to guide and direct us toward developing our powers of consciousness. Isn't this limitation? The more highly evolved we become, the more we use the principle of limitation to bring freedom to ourselves. Not until we have learned to use this principle of limitation wisely can we remotely have real freedom. We

are slaves to our undisciplined tendencies without this quality. A person with a harsh temper is a slave to emotion. A discipline of the temper can bring about a re-direction of this energy into more constructive channels. This power of limitation is a real power and can be utilized for gaining real freedom — the freedom to properly direct our own disciplines.

Cosmic Consciousness is symbolized by Uranus, Key No. 0, as well as Saturn, Key No. 21. All our work of conscious control of the planetary forces is a balancing of these two extremes of one idea, the alpha and omega — beginning and end. We will be learning to gain control of our own solar system by balancing and aligning these forces within our nature. Then, and only then, can we align ourselves consciously with the forces that pour through us from the universe, becoming any sign of the zodiac at will for any length of time, and then returning to our own individuality and enjoying it. The idea of enjoying what we are is very vital. The Fool, Key No. 0, is gay and debonair. All he is carrying is a very light staff, his memories. We have to train ourselves to carry our memories lightly, learning to see them as jewels of experience that have grown us instead of using them for self-condemnation and regret. We have to give up our burdens. Saturn, when we are not using this force correctly, is what makes us feel burdened. It is Uranus which helps us to give up these unnecessary burdens. When Uranus makes a transit over a person's Sun in his birth chart, his whole life is apt to change abruptly. Does that mean it is unhappy? No. It depends on the person.

This type of aspect brings an extra intensity of emotion. Saturn holds you to what you have, while Uranus explodes you out of it, and yet they are co-rulers in Aquarius, the sign that heralds the New Age thinking. This is again showing how the law of opposites is working. The whole awakening of the Kundalini in occultism has to do with these two forces and their inter-action, one on the other. In a truly balanced nature you can have your explosions and changes when needed, and yet these explosions are held within due bounds. Just now our scientists are experimenting with the attempt to release energy from the hydrogen atom through the process of fusion. They are trying to copy the power of the Sun. Our Sun does not give out energy by blowing itself apart as some people think. The energy it gives out is the result of fusion. So you have one kind of energy that comes from an explosion. That is how the original atom bomb worked. Now you have the fusion that is being experimented with in the laboratory. They haven't as yet been able to hold such a power. They are, however, working with the principle which makes the Sun give off its radiations and rays. So far, they have for a very slight fraction of a second held the energy of a fusion together through setting up an electro-magnetic field. Remember, the human being in a incarnation is an electro-magnetic field. Those who have psychic ability along that line see this field as the aura. In these attempts to control and discipline the vast energies that make a sun, or a star, scientists have found that only an electro-magnetic force field will hold the energy even for a fraction of a second. This could prove to be a fantastic accomplishment, this harnessing of such vast energy for the benefit of humanity.

The interesting correlation in our Tarot Keys is that in Tarot Key No. 0, Uranus, we have the spirit of expansion and explosion and readiness for the next height of attainment. With Saturn we have the idea of compres-

sion, of holding together, fusion and control. Yet as co-rulers of Aquarius for this present New Age you have both forces equally present. Our exoteric astrologers have made a great mistake in replacing Saturn as the ruler of Aquarius by Uranus. One does not take away from the other. Both of these influences are present because they have to do with the forces of our own being. These forces do not get replaced that readily.

Through the disciplines of Saturn and the New Age freedoms of Uranus, our own present New Age emotional life can emerge from the limitations of the past. When we speak of getting any planetary center under control, we mean getting it balanced as well as vitalized and awakened. When a pupil is being trained in the awakening of the Kundalini in the Eastern occult methods, it is always done under the personal instruction of the Guru. Unfortunately, many books have been written giving various techniques in this awakening. The greatest safeguard, the reason more people are not injured, is that most people who read these books are so poor at following the instructions that nothing happens. This awakening has to do with forcing upward a whirling vortex of light, which on the physical plane really involves the upsweep of certain energies stored in the sacral area of the body. Compression has stored this energy, and the awakening of this energy has to do with its traveling up the spine. The electro-magnetic force field, or aura, is also an oval of protection. It does keep us from being aware of the subtle areas of life until they are stirred by these practices, but at the same time it protects us from fierce, violent, unleashed, undisciplined forces that we cannot yet handle. To unleash these powers prematurely would be like taking someone who has never learned to swim and throwing him into a turbulent sea. Until through discipline and training he had learned to use his natural powers, such an action would surely destroy him. In the same way we must work with awakening forces within us in a controlled manner. For this reason the Western Mystery Schools worked out a very special method to protect aspirants from stirring these energies prematurely and risking the danger of inundating themselves in energies that they could not yet handle. That is why anyone who is in too much of a hurry really isn't ready for the higher occult teachings. You make haste slowly and you get there the most rapidly.

With these New Age Aquarian energies, however, and the New Age necessities, we can and must work more rapidly than has been necessary in the past. Our Western methods, of which B.O.T.A. is a center, are far more effective than the Eastern methods in certain ways, because the Western methods do not aim only at helping you to experience higher levels of consciousness, but also aim at awakening and controlling step by step the next evolutionary level in man. I have found in my working on the inner plane that almost all of you who are advanced members of B.O.T.A. have already had the kind of development that the Eastern schools of thought teach. You have had this training in past incarnations and have already experienced these mystical states and awarenesses that the Easterners strive for. But the Easterners often make a mistake in misinterpreting these experiences and in thinking that they are the end and purpose of evolution. Many highly developed souls in the Eastern method have had to come back into incarnation, usually in the Western culture, so as to learn to bring these mystical experiences into helping evolve the manifest world.

The spirals on Key No. 21 are intended to give your subconsciousness

the symbolic impact of the principles of growth and evolution. In the Western school we are working for much higher levels of understanding in our own evolution and the evolution of humanity than has been understood. It doesn't make any difference whether you are psychic or not. Those of you who are psychic are fortunate in one way, because you know that there are other levels of awareness beyond the physical. You are unfortunate in another way, because as these awarenesses make an impact they tend to enchant your mind and entrance your attention away from the real job of spiritual attainment. Once we understand the relative importance of various states of consciousness, however, we can experience them without danger of illusion and distraction. Being enchanted by psychic phenomena is just as distracting as being enchanted by materialism. You shouldn't permit anything to distract you from the most important endeavor in this universe, which is to take your own evolution in hand and become that which you are destined to be. And do this as rapidly as you can for the sake of your own development, and thus for the development of the entire human race. Never forget that no matter how much you yearn to serve life, you have to become competent to serve. To become competent means you must really want to serve enough to work at it.

As I pointed out before, the awakening of the Kundalini must be accomplished in a controlled manner. The actual awakening really involves an energy lift, or a vibratory lift. This is what you have been training yourself for in your practices with Color and Sound. It is in this use of the vibratory correlations that the centers are opened safely and the Kundalini energy can begin to rise. Actually this energy travels like electricity. It has a positive and a negative pole that cross and recross in a circular motion up the spine. In using Color and Sound combined with Tarot symbolism, you have been accomplishing this stirring in a controlled manner. Just as an uncontrolled nuclear explosion will bring devastation and destruction, so can you bring destruction to yourself unless the awakening is controlled. The methods we use are the safest possible, but it takes persistence in these specialized practices, together with our lesson material, to accomplish the awakening. In B.O.T.A. we insist that you use your mind and your intellect, along with your aspiration. This is just another safeguard. Reason and understanding go right along with aspiration. While we are transmuting, we are working toward a development of all parts of our nature. We are not trying to throw away our mind, even though in the Eastern philosophy it is said that the mind is the slayer of the real. The mind is the slayer of the real only when it is a slave to the senses. When it becomes a channel of the higher forces of the soul, it is an essential aid to illumination. The Kundalini energy, a so-called serpent fire, is that which will help to bring an awakening and correlation to each whirling center of force within us. From this preliminary understanding we will learn how to receive in a balanced manner the energies from the universe around us. This not only involves attaining Cosmic Consciousness, but also it involves the ability to receive, express and react to everybody and everything, because as living beings we are responsive to all the other energies in the universe. This is why we must learn how to respond and to react to other people and other situations . . . how to become a strong force so that other people and situations cannot disrupt this very subtle organized force that we are building into greater and greater control.

TECHNIQUE

As a technique for this week we will combine the forces of Saturn and Uranus. This technique will give you an extra impact of energies for stirring your Kundalini into awakening you to higher levels of consciousness. Combine Keys No. 21 and Key No. 0 in this technique. In actuality the center of whirling force that we call Uranus is above your head as the higher octave of Mercury, which is correlated with the pineal gland. We will be starting a process for stirring your energies from the bottom of the spine in order to begin raising it to the upper centers. We are doing it in a safe way, guided by special images. Put No. 21 and No. 0 together as symbols for meditation. Don't think of your body as such at this point. Think of Saturn, Key No. 21, as being the bottom-most whirling center, the center of your ability to develop individuality. Swing your eyes to Uranus, Key 0. Think of it as being about 18 inches above your head. Realize that what Key 0 symbolizes is the real causative factor, the adventurer. He is at the top, but he is descending into the valley of experience in order to get to the next height. So Uranus as the higher octave of Mercury represents the energy which forces and pushes humanity toward higher evolutionary levels. It has its place, however, in your personal nature, too. It is what gives you the ability and courage to be your own individuality instead of having to copy others. We must develop the ability to be intelligently independent. The independence of Uranus has to do with feeling security in your selfhood, in your individuality. The stability of Saturn has to do with your ability to feel yourself as such a stable, eternal center that you don't have to be pushed around by what other people say or think or even by your own insecurities. People who have afflicted Saturns in their natal charts are usually very insecure. With this technique of combining the forces of these two Keys, no matter what Saturn indicates in your personal chart, you are going to develop a security beyond anything that the best chart could give you. You are going to be working out your own force flow inside. You must learn to see that anything that holds you down in a disciplinary manner or frustrates you is merely an area or avenue in and through which the adventurer in you is planning its next height. In getting to the next height, you do not have to succumb to the lower or mass level of consciousness. It is a matter of developing your own spiritual security. This technique is a start. You are changing the relationship between the Saturn and Uranus energies in your nature. It will express itself in security, forward movement, and independence.

AFFIRMATION

I descend courageously into the valley of experience, knowing that all the problems, all the pressures, that Life presents to me are leading me toward ever greater heights of attainment and understanding. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Eleven

SUN (1)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

The next planet we will consider in relation to our interior nature is the Sun, depicted in Tarot by Key No. 19. The Sun is related to the center within at the cardiac plexus. It is slightly above the heart and towards the middle. This is the area where we often experience waves of feeling and emotion. This center is actually a psychic vortex of energy and is the place where the One Ego is located, where the undifferentiated consciousness enters the field of personality. The differentiations take place within this field of personality, and they are related to the twelve zodiacal signs the sun transits during a solar year.

Our true I is seated here — not in the head. The head, or brain, is one of the Ego's expressions, but it is in the heart that the True Will is seated. This should tell us many things. You have a sense of I because the Cosmic I is compressed and individualized by entry into the field of personality through this center. It expresses in and through that vortex of force that, on the physical plane, has its connection with the cardiac plexus, but is not that plexus itself. Your every awareness of yourself as I is thus an individualized expression of the One Conscious Energy. This individualization is expressed through the infinite blendings of the seven basic forces or planets through the twelve zodiacal signs or types. From each degree of each zodiacal sign, the angle of the Sun's rays and the angle of the Sun's reflected rays from the planets is a little different. This center within you is your interior replica of the Sun in our solar system. And just as in our solar system it is the sun that is the center, with all the planets rotating around it and partaking of its light and force, so in your interior nature all the things you are, all the things you think, all the things that occur to you, are rotating around the True Center, the Ego, seated in the heart.

The sun itself is far vaster, far more all-encompassing, than we realize. When we look out into the heavens we see what appears to be a globe of burning fire, composed of incandescent gases. Actually we are looking at the core only of this vast center. A core of compressed energy. The sun with its rays extends throughout the whole solar system and beyond. The sun does not begin and end in that circle you think you see. Notice the sun in Key No. 19, and see how the rays are formed. They are alternately straight and curved, male and female, aspects of the law of opposites. This tells us that the sun is actually identical with the electro-magnetic energy of modern science. The extension of the rays is shown by the yods. It is saying symbolically that the yods are the final energies — the atomic structures from the sun. We are made up of atoms; thus we are extensions of the sun. The light that we see in the sky is the dense core, not the whole being of the sun. We do not live away from or outside of the sun. We live inside the sun, inside its rays, inside its influence. The fact that it looks like it is distant is only because we are in a more tenuous atmosphere of it. We live and move and have our being inside the sun.

In our Color and Sound course dealing with the awakening of the psychic centers, we skipped from the Saturn Center to the Sun Center instead of going straight up through the Mars and Jupiter centers. This practice is a protective measure. As the Kundalini power becomes awakened we must first get ourselves centered in the whirling forces at the heart. Then can we safely awaken the other centers because we have symbolically placed our growth and development in the hands of the One Ego seated in the hearts of men.

We must train our consciousness to give all energies over to the Higher Self. This does not mean giving up unity or love or the reproductive drive. We mean that we consciously give our energies over to the One Ego for guidance. Thus the level on which the mind and emotions respond to these energies is raised and purified. What is purity and what is not purity? Purity is in the heart. It is our attitude toward a force or power which determines our sense of purity about it. This sense of purity about all forces is an essential beginning before we can safely begin unwinding the Karmic past stored in the Saturn center. This unwinding includes not only our personal patterns and problems, but also the Karma which we share with all of humanity and with all of life. We have portions of all of it because we are parts of all of it. We can't escape these patterns, but we can transmute them. We can do this within our magic circle of awareness as shown by the two children dancing in the fairy ring. We make our own magic circle by what we train ourselves to think and feel and be, until it becomes automatic and we no longer have to think about it. When we can react in a positive manner towards any situation and reach to the Higher for guidance without conscious thought, then has it become a permanent part of our innermost being.

Those who have difficulty in the raising of the Kundalini usually have guilt complexes about the sex energy and feel that purity depends upon having no thoughts or hopes or yearnings in relation to unity between male and female. They really suffer the tortures of the damned because of the way they feel about an energy that is the basis of incarnate life. The energy at the base of the spine is the wound up energy of all the creative past and is therefore being pushed with a force that is beyond calculation. When you have this kind of force stirred with an impure attitude about creative power, untold problems can result. We must form new habit patterns of response in thinking about the sexual creative drive. We cannot evolve into the next level of awareness until we are able to look upon the creative force in all its aspects as the creative power of God.

Another essential as we work with awakening the psychic centers is to develop an ethical awareness that is in harmony with the Real World. A better understanding of what 'right' and 'wrong' encompass and a keener awareness of our mental and emotional responses to what we think these words include is essential. Then must follow a balancing of severity and mercy in all aspects of our life. It is just as bad to be over-merciful and thus permit relative evil as it is to be over-severe. Tarot is especially designed for transmuting all of our responses. Tarot helps to recondition our habit patterns of thinking and feeling so that the psychic powers cannot run wild. Premature awakenings of these energies often bring spectacular psychic experiences, but without the necessary discrimination these are

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unreliable at best and can be downright dangerous to body and mind. Such awakening can put the aspirant at the mercy of lower psychic energies and lower psychic entities. This is because they awakened the centers before they had sufficiently transmuted the hates, jealousies and impure thoughts hidden in the storehouse of subconsciousness. We tend to attract psychically those emotions, ideas and entities that are in harmony with our deep-rooted thoughts and feelings. That is why so much preparation is necessary before the psychic faculties can be safely awakened.

Everyone experiences and lives life in terms of his own personality. Your interior solar system is your window through which you look out into the universe. It is expressed through the inter-relationships between the seven centers or planets. Your natal chart will show certain inharmonies or affinities between various centers. Your chart will not show, however, how highly evolved you are. It will not show whether you will be able to take the 'squared' aspects and, through the conflicts arising from them, use them for your growth and understanding, or let them use you and defeat you. Therefore, your chart will not show what the outcome of any aspect is going to be, although a lot of astrologers like to tell you they can ascertain this. The more highly evolved you are, the less can anyone read your chart. The more highly evolved you are, the more you need someone on or above your evolutionary level to understand it at all. Your chart might look the same as that of someone less evolved, but it will not be the same because your level of reaction will be different, and so your responses to all situations will be different.

Look again at Key No. 19. That is your magic circle of control. That is your individualization. You can use your birth chart to advantage as an aid to pointing out the highlights in your nature, your talents, powers, conflicts. We are out to live above what the usual idea of Karma is. We are out to become masters of our stars. You advanced B.O.T.A. members have undoubtedly been working for many incarnations towards this mastery. We must always remember that we are actually the entire zodiac; we are all the planets. Our job is to bring them all into harmony in our natures, using the talents and highlights along certain lines to advantage. More than this, we will learn to use the conflicts and inharmonies to advantage also. This is truly learning to be master of the stars.

In Lesson 10 we began our practice for safely arousing the Kundalini with Keys No. 21 and No. 0. In our next technique outlined at the end of the next lesson, we will be relating this awakened force upward to the Sun Center in Key No. 19. We will be taking the insecurities of yesterday and offering them to the heart center and saying in essence: "As a center of expression for the One Life, I am remarkable!" Strong statements such as these will help rid us of the inferiority complexes that are another stumbling block on the road to the Higher Life. We must see ourselves as children of the Sun . . . expressions, instruments of and for the One Ego. When we can see ourselves in this manner, we will be able to forgive our past and we will be able to forgive those who have hurt us in the past. We can look upon these hurts and sorrows as a blessing, knowing that they were essential to our growth; knowing also that neither the ones who hurt us nor we ourselves could have acted any differently at that time. This is the only forgiveness that there really is.

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Discrimination develops as we go along the Path. We will not so easily fall into the traps of sorrowful, painful experiences as we learn more how to understand all personality types. This we will take up in detail in later lessons of this course. We must train ourselves into an automatic response to that which we are — that is: "I am a child of God and I am a channel for the One God, the One Life." Thus will we be taking the first steps in mastering our interior solar system, in controlling our emotions and responses and dissolving unwanted, hampering habit patterns that deter progress. As we continue our practices, these deterrents to progress are raised from the Saturn Center to the Heart Center and there they are transmuted by our giving them up to the One Ego.

In our Technique for the Sun, we will concentrate on bringing the Karma up to the Sun of Life and Light and Love. After that we will make a loop and travel the rest of the Centers. To the Sun, the One Ego, we hand everything over for guidance and development . . . to that Central Ego which is eternal within us. Even the Magician, who symbolizes the highest of the Holy Seven Planets, is an instrument for the One Ego. It is Central to all things. Think of yourself as being where you are, and in every direction you can think of the universe is surrounding you. Each of you is thus the center of the whole universe. God's universe. That is a pretty important spot, isn't it? Feel important! Your consciousness is your center, unique and different, and the One Ego is the heart of that uniqueness in you. The magic circle of Key No. 19 shows you that you don't have to envy anyone. You don't have to be jealous of anyone else's abilities or talents. Develop the Magic that you are . . . the magic of your Sun as individualized by your sun sign. You will be free to do it when the forces of your interior solar system are brought into the integration necessary. Then you can live above your 'chart' because you will be the whole zodiac highlighted, but not restricted, by your sun sign. ##

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Lesson Twelve

SUN (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

The Sun in your astrological chart is a symbol of your individuality. The reason we have such extraordinary differentiations of type among individuals is because the Central I, as the undifferentiated consciousness streaming from the sun, hits the earth at an infinite number of angles, coming from different areas of the heavens. It thus produces an infinite number of vibratory rates. The different vibratory rates in turn produce an equally infinite number of variations in personality — all from the One Consciousness.

Thus the angle of the sun, together with the positions of all the other planets in the heavens at the time of your birth — all producing different vibratory rates and intermingling with the vibrations from each other and with those from the sun — produce the patterns that result in the phenomena we call personality.

Tarot Key No. 19 symbolizes this individualization within the One; the forty-eight rays of the sun symbolize the twelve basic zodiacal types in the four worlds. The Yods are also a symbol for the same idea. The energy coming from the sun and flowing back to it produce all the occurrences of human experience.

Our immediate individualization is within our solar system, and our sun is the center of it. Your heart center is that part of you that receives conscious nourishment from higher levels. This heart center has what you might call an umbilical cord that is not physical. Through this cord it receives its nourishment, its livingness, its awareness, its beingness. It is fed just as an embryo in the womb of its mother is fed. This is actually the way we receive nourishment on the subtle levels. Dropping the physical body has nothing to do with dropping your I. You can't drop I. All you do when you die is drop a concentration of an area of expression, so that your consciousness starts to see itself as its other vehicles and modes of being for a time. Then, of course, until we are perfected, we have to come right back here to the physical plane where we do most of our evolving and transmuting.

Your heart center which receives this nourishment from the sun is correlated with a group of nerve cells that form the cardiac ganglion in the sympathetic nervous system. This ganglion, among other functions, controls the beat of the heart. The nerve cells of the sun center charge the bloodstream, as the blood passes through the heart, with a current of radiant energy. These are the subtle, finer vibrations of solar force. Through conscious knowledge, the amount of this radiant energy with which the blood is charged can be tremendously increased. This is the "living gold" of the alchemical philosophers. The living, fluidic radiance.

Look at Key No. 19 again. The sun has a face to show that it is a conscious, not merely a mechanistic, energy. An ancient occult doctrine holds that all celestial bodies are vehicles of intelligence. The sun in the

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sky is a synthesis of all the active forces in the universe. The sun center within is likewise a synthesis of all the active forces entering into the composition of human personality. The sun is a living power, not merely a physical energy. We are the way the Solar Consciousness or Solar Logos experiences its selfhood in terms of self-consciousness. Self-consciousness is a definitely human attribute. We are actually expressions of the consciousness of the sun in its individualized and differentiated self-conscious aspect. We are children grown by the sun. At the same time we are the creative energy — the creative consciousness of that sun. Remember, there is a spiritual sun behind what looks like the physical sun. The spiritual sun is symbolized in Tarot Key No. 0 as white. Whenever the sun is shown as white, it refers to the spiritual essence behind the outer sun. The physical sun is an indication that there is a spiritual consciousness holding these forces together. You are that consciousness. You have evolved to a point where you hold the forces together in and with the power of the sun. There is no other power. Atomic power is the power of the sun. The power of fusion, recently experimented with by science, is the way the sun creates energy. All the powers of the sun are powers of your nature. You are the life of the sun in a specialized aspect. The sun itself is merely an outer appearance of living consciousness, the Lesser Countenance of Qabalistic terminology. We are a cell, or a part — a growing part of this life. What we must do is to awaken within us full awareness of this, our True Ego. Thus will we be "transformed by the renewing of our minds".

The sun in Tarot is a symbol of rebirth from natural humanity to spiritual humanity. Our goal is to become unobstructed vehicles for the power of the One Life. The Great Work is the regeneration of human personality. The children in Key No. 19 symbolize this rebirth, which is yet in its early youth. To attain this goal of regenerated humanity, something more than personal effort is required. That something more is an influx of power from superconscious levels, entering the field of personality through the sun center. The solar energy shines in us, and our energy shines in the sun. We must become ever more conscious of this truth. When you walk in the sunshine, remind yourself that in Him you live and move and have your being. When the sun sets, you can still walk in the sunshine because you are walking in the sunshine of all the other stars.

Do keep in mind that the sun's body is the whole solar system; that the sun's consciousness is walking around in every human being on this planet; walking around in every creature on this planet; expressing through every tree and every flower. The sun's consciousness is the correlation of all the beings that are. We are all One, but you and I are something very special in the scheme of things. You and I are the most highly evolved centers of consciousness that the sun has evolved. Whatever awareness the spiritual sun behind the physical sun has is an attribute of your nature, not yet fully developed, but ever growing toward ultimate and inevitable perfection.

In this lesson we will give you another technique for awakening and balancing the planetary forces of your interior solar system. We will first look at Keys 21 and 0. Key No. 21 symbolizes the restrictive saturnine force that holds the patterns of the past as a coiled up energy in the

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center at the base of the spine. This force must be awakened in order to awaken the higher centers. At the same time, we must proceed with discrimination. Psychism in the form of clairvoyance, clairaudience, clair-sentience, etc. can bring all sorts of false images and impressions. We must direct our consciousness toward guidance from the highest levels as we "explore the rivers of our soul". It is also important, as we have stated before, to hold the proper attitude. If you have beauty and love in your heart, you will be viewing your psychic experiences through the window of beauty and love. You will be tuning into a level where such emotions are prevalent. Remember, many psychic experiences are delusion. You can't rely on them completely until you have attained a degree of spiritual awareness that gives you the ability to verify your experiences.

The technique that follows is designed to help you awaken and utilize your psychic powers with confidence, safety and understanding. It is important to remember that the imagery of the Tarot Keys holds your consciousness in a positive form, so that it doesn't go haywire on the psychic or astral levels. That is why it is so important to look at the Keys while working these exercises. Your work with them throughout your Tarot studies has helped your subconsciousness to respond to the positive images that they invoke. The Keys are used for our control, as well as for awakening latent powers.

Saturn, when it makes certain aspects in your personal chart, has a tendency to make you suspicious, despairing, unhappy, morbid, frustrated or feeling heavy with responsibility. We are starting to train our consciousness to respond to the Saturnine influence in a more constructive way. We will correlate it with Uranus in our practice which symbolizes the New Age awareness. We will also correlate it with Key No. 21 itself, which depicts this force as a Dance of Life, a joyful freedom that includes control of motion, thus control of experience. Saturn can help us to control our thinking and feeling processes in a positive manner that will lead us to being more conscious, more accurate co-creators with God.

TECHNIQUE

Look at Key No. 21 in conjunction with your blue-violet color card. Have ready the pitch pipe that you used in our course on Color and Sound. Key No. 21 symbolizes the energy we are awakening. Correlate it with Key No. 0, its co-ruler in Aquarius, as you did in our first Technique. Picture yourself as being Key No. 21. Be Key 21 and have Key 0 above you. Image yourself backed into Key 21. You are the Dance of Life, the joyful control of experience that leads to ever higher levels of mastery. You are all the experiences you ever had. You are unwinding these experiences with discrimination, wisdom and perception. Now switch your consciousness upward to Key 0, Uranus, with the thought that this force is going to bring you the "New Age" awarenesses. . . the "view from the mountaintop" which will show you the true significance of life and lead you to the heights of expanded vision and understanding. As you flick your consciousness to Key No. 0, Uranus, you are symbolically aligning yourself with the Uranian force that is destined to take you eventually to the first-hand awareness of the unity of all that is the first mark of adeptship.

During this part of the practice, think of the color blue-violet as

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filling your aura. Sound the note A-natural on your pitch pipe, and intone Aum (ah-oo-oo-mm) three times, holding the intonation each time as long as you can.

Now that the Saturn force has been stirred into activity in conjunction with the Uranian influence, we are ready to start the second part of this technique.

Back yourself into Key No. 19. Feel yourself as being this whole Key. You are the Sun with its forty-eight rays pouring radiance upon the figures of the children below. You are the children in the magic fairy ring being filled and transmuted by the flowing radiance from the sun. See your aura as filled with vibrating orange. Brilliant, vibrating orange. Chant the Aum as before, but this time to the note D-natural.

In this part of the Technique you are bringing up to the heart center all the forces from the awakened Saturn center. This includes the forces we share with other forms of life, as well as personal forces. We bring all this up to the heart center to be consecrated into purity by the sun; to be put in the care of the Central Ego; to be purified by the love force of the Solar Logos.

As you proceed with this practice, mentally hand your karma over to the love center in the heart, the unifying Ego. Here the forces of love and unity flow most strongly. Here we may experience I as being unique, glorious, eternal, individual, and at the same time we experience ourselves as One with every other I and every other center.

AFFIRMATION

With perfect confidence and faith I surrender the patterns of the past that hold me in bondage over to the One Ego seated in the hearts of men. The golden radiance of Solar love and unity flows unceasingly through all the doors of my Temple. I am thus being reborn daily into the New Species — a member of spiritual humanity. ##

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Lesson Thirteen

MARS (1)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

In this lesson we will be investigating just what part the Mars force plays in our interior solar system. In Tarot Key No. 16, attributed to this planet, you see a crown being shattered by the lightning of heaven. You see figures being thrown out of the tower. You see a fire! In a word, you see destruction! Now what is all this symbolizing? What is occurring? Mars is a disintegrative force, and disintegration is a most necessary preliminary to the building of anything new. In Alchemy, solve always comes before coagula. Destruction is actually the basis of existence. In the act of destruction lies all the utility there is in any item we use. Our food, clothing, automobiles, houses, etc. are all in the process of destruction as we utilize them. Power, or utility, is released by disintegration.

Much of this disintegration and destruction, when applied to personality patterns, is uncomfortable. The process of awakening is often painful. It involves the shattering of erroneous beliefs and the giving up of unreasonable prejudices, outworn customs, fixed patterns of thinking and acting, and negative attachments.

The power of Mars helps us to disintegrate these outworn forms of personal consciousness. This preliminary breaking down is as fundamental in the rebuilding of our personality as it is in the rebuilding of a house or bridge. Before we can find release from the chains that bind us, we must learn how to break the chains. Before we can build new temples for our consciousness, we must apply the power of Mars to break down old patterns of thinking and acting.

It is a very uncomfortable sort of experience, but it does not need to be quite so devastating as it sometimes is. Much of the discomfort is due to our tendency to hang on to what we are accustomed to; to hang on and on. Because of this, any new idea, any new orientation to our thinking or understanding, is a difficult thing to accomplish, especially if it knocks down the crown of egomania from which we all suffer to some extent.

Now the lightning of heaven will always strike, sooner or later, whether we are conscious aspirants or not. Evolution must take place. Certain things are going to occur in any case. We are going to be knocked out of our old towers or prisons, out of our patterns, out of our false self-evaluations, whether we want to or not. The difference is that some people take something like a dozen lifetimes to knock out one negative pattern, while others can knock out a hundred in one incarnation.

That is the difference it makes if one has developed the strength of soul to face the lightning, the willingness to accept reality even though it shatters dearly held inculcations and prejudices and leaves one seemingly naked and shaken for awhile. We have been conditioned, every one of us. We have been conditioned in every way you can imagine: by our parents, our teachers, by radio and television programs, books, politicians, friends, etc. It is not a simple or comfortable thing to have to give up so much of

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what the rest of the world believes in. Most of this conditioning has been shot through and through with false knowledge, false actions and false attitudes, because most of it is based on separatism. Based on the idea that we are each separate beings, one against the other. Each must watch out that he gets his share of material things, attention, fame, admiration, acceptance, etc. or be left out in the cold.

I am sure that all of you have been out in the darkness and seen a flash of lightning. In that instant you have been able to see the whole scene, a panoramic view, just for an instant, before the darkness encompasses you again. Flash — and it's gone, but you have seen it for that instant. This makes a big difference, this flash of light. It dispels our fears and gives us courage to go on. It is related to the second stage of spiritual enfoldment (Tarot Interpretations, lesson 2), to which Key No. 16, Mars, is assigned.

We have all been locked in our various conditionings, but it is time we started seeing with a new vision. This conditioning, however, is a necessary part of evolution. We had to be conditioned in order to develop consciousness. Conditioning involves the principles of compression, and compression is necessary to bring about any manifestation. It is a part of manifestation. However, once you have the compression, the concentration in certain areas, and have completed that part of your development, you need to give it up for the next step. The scaffolding that was necessary at one stage of the building of the Temple is superfluous, as well as being a menace when it is retained after it has outworn its usefulness. Once you have developed self-consciousness, the next step is to become aware of your self-consciousness as a vehicle for the One Consciousness. Our further evolution depends upon whether we are ready to dispel many of our set and fixed patterns of thinking and action and how much we are able to let go of the materialistic ideas of what determines security. This need to feel secure has to do with many things. It has to do, for example, with how people may or may not appreciate us, or what others think of us. Status symbols as determiners of personal worth are deeply imbedded in our culture. It is not easy to walk contrary to the world in our thinking and actions.

If we really want to achieve liberation — freedom from the prisons of false conceptions and actions — we must be willing to face up to the fact that we have been misinterpreting life. Misinterpreting what has been happening to us and misinterpreting other people's roles in relation to us. When we honestly want enlightenment, we can use the driving Mars force in our nature to give us strength and impetus. Then the lightning flash of reality will illumine our minds to the truth about ourselves and we will never again be in quite so much darkness. Not that darkness will not descend again. Life is not yet a perfected state, but it will never again be quite so dark. Anyone who expects manifest perfection now is again not looking at reality. We are on our way up in evolution, but the Great Work, as far as the physical plane is concerned, is not yet finished.

Four Tarot Keys are associated with the Mars energy. Key No. 4 symbolizes the Martian power in Aries in its self-conscious aspect of ordering, ruling and classifying sense data. Key No. 13 symbolizes Mars

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in Scorpio and is related to Mars as the driving force behind reproduction. Key No. 15 corresponds to the exaltation of Mars in Capricorn, showing that the highest expression of this force is in the power of renewal that leads to regeneration. Key No. 16, of course, is the Mars force itself. On the cube of space, Mars is related to the direction North. The symbolism of the flash of lightning connected with Mars and the direction North shows that the force we see manifest in nature as lightning, or electricity, is the same power that we find manifest in our personalities as the driving power of Mars. This occult force is the basis, the means, for bringing about the inner changes in the personal vehicle that will eventually lead to enlightenment. Its connection to the direction North symbolizes the truth that the hidden sources of power that terrify the minds of the uninformed, the forces which are always associated with darkness and terror, when understood, are the forces that lead to the enlightenment that sets us free.

The fundamental activity of Mars in human personality is the stimulation of desire. It takes a person with deep, powerful desires to really accomplish anything in this world. Those who really get things done are the ones who have few desires, but those they have are deep, powerful and one-pointed. This is the method for fulfilling any desire, incidentally. Keep it one-pointed. Let nothing deflect you from your singular aim. Let your thoughts dwell on what you have decided to do or be and picture clearly what activities and what objects will be manifest with its fulfillment.

To Geburah, גְּבוּרָה, the sphere of Mars on the Tree of Life, is attributed volition, the activity of the Life power which gives man his feeling of personal will. The name Geburah is from a Hebrew adjective which signifies muscular power in a strong man. The same adjective indicates sexual virility in man also. It is in the Geburah aspect of the Life Power that the Mars force is specialized as our feeling of will power. Primitive man utilized this power in hunting, warfare and sex functions. At this level of evolution the emotion which was dominant in calling forth volition was what psychologists now term the "fear/rage" complex. This, of course, is related to the aspect of Geburah symbolized by the term Pachad, פַּחַד, fear. In these primitive uses of the Mars force man developed courage and strengthened his feeling of personal will. Whether he fought or ran depended on whether his gonads and his adrenals, both ruled by Mars, were functioning properly.

The Mars energy is your creative energy in its basic, most elemental state. All drive is the Mars energy, no matter where it is expressing. It isn't good or bad in itself. It is how it is used that makes the difference. It is the energy we must use to become conscious co-creators with God. We must train ourselves to regard all action and work as being not our own. We must think of all our actions as being merely personal expressions of universal laws.

In the physical body, the Mars force is associated with the prostatic ganglion, the upper and lower mesenteric plexus, and the adrenals in the glandular system. Remember, however, that the physical area only corresponds to the inner planetary center. The "interior star" is composed of finer substance, is made of non-physical material. It is really in our etheric astral bodies. This center supplies the power which stimulates and makes active the physical nerve centers mentioned and the parts of the body they

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control. Mars also rules Aries. In this bodily area it activates the motor centers of the brain and controls the muscular system, both voluntary and involuntary. People who have Mars in Aries usually are blessed with lots of vitality, drive and energy. The Mars influence tends to incite to action. Mars is related to our animal drives, to the impulses we have carried over from earlier states of unfoldment. A well-aspected, well-placed Mars expresses in personality as the power to do things and the power to move others. It gives an ability for leadership. A weakly placed or afflicted Mars expresses in a tendency to lack of vitality and energy, inability to make decisions and a nameless fearfulness. A strongly placed but afflicted Mars, unbalanced by softening aspects in the chart, can express in a harsh temper, unruly animal desires and a streak of cruelty in the nature. However, as you know, this entire course is dedicated to the balancing of these aspects in our personality. We are learning to live above our aspects, learning to balance all of them in our nature, learning to develop those that need developing and softening those aspects that are too prominent and out of balance.

All aspects, all energies, in our nature can express in more than one way. The energy that can free us from hatreds and prisons of prejudice and false knowledge is the same energy that, misunderstood, can destroy love, destroy justice and disintegrate the constructive evolutionary tendencies in us. Destruction, as we have said, is necessary for new construction, but it must be controlled, understood and channeled. Just as truly, you cannot have a new condition without destroying the old one. You cannot open your heart to love until you have pushed out the hate that was keeping love from entering your life. You cannot experience freedom until you have recognized and eliminated any subconscious need for slavery. That is part of using Mars constructively, seeing that true justice, not mere maudlin mercy, rules our lives. As Voltaire said: "If there is anything more despicable than a tyrant, it is the tyrannized." Mars can give us strength to stand by our convictions and strength to act severely when it is necessary, even when it is not the easy thing to do. Mercy must be balanced by severity. Most occultists, most aspirants, are over-balanced on the side of mercy in relation to others, because of a greater understanding. Nevertheless, we must learn the greater good, the greater charity of severity when it is needed, not only for ourselves, but for those who would use us for selfish purposes. Over mercy can actually become the accomplice of evil. ##

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Lesson Fourteen

MARS (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

The whirling center of force called the planet Mars in our interior solar system really belongs to one of our subtler bodies. This volition force is connected with and expresses through the sexual organs in the physical body. It is assigned to the prostatic ganglion in the man, and to the ovarian, uterine area in the woman. Both in the male and the female, the connection is with that part of the organism that deals with reproduction. It is the activity of the glands that produce sex hormones on the physical plane that gives us our drive and propulsive energy. Mars is, basically, the energy plant of human personality.

In astrology it is assigned not only to the sex drive, but to the whole driving energy of personality. The sex drive is just one way that the entire forward push of evolution expresses. On the physical plane it works through the sex urge. Thinking ill about, or having guilt in relation to, this urge is probably one of the most difficult subconscious responses that all of us must transmute. If we think that there is anything wrong with this urge, we are actually blaspheming God's method of reproducing centers of Himself. This is the method that Divinity uses to keep creating and recreating bodies, i. e. forms, in and through which to evolve.

We have all been conditioned erroneously in this area. You can readily see why the Mars energy is involved with the sex drive. In almost all societies you will find that the most intensive conditioning and the strongest taboos are related to sex. This function has become surrounded by fixed ideas, unthinking reactions and adverse responses leading to such a contradiction of moral codes and dogmas that this alone should prove their unreliability. We have as many different moral codes as we have types of societies and periods of recorded history. Morals change with geography and history. One thing they all have in common is their concern with this 'force of all forces' which is set up, as the Alchemical doctrine puts it "for the salvation of some and the ruin of many".

This may surprise you, but one of the strategems that the Masters of Wisdom use to test aspirants is to see just how they react to matters pertaining to sex. Anyone who is too fixated, too emotional or embarrassed by sex functions is not free to use that tremendous energy for illumination. Don't ever forget that sex union is union on all levels and involves all the vehicles. Therefore, if you look upon it as ugly, dirty or unspiritual on one level, you are restricting much of that energy by putting it into a prison.

Now this does not mean that one should be promiscuous. When one uses the sex energy indiscriminately he is not feeling sacramental or reverent about God's driving energy. This sacramental feeling involves the ability to open one's heart and mind toward the capacity to have union with God. You cannot divide or divorce your vehicles as is so sadly done in some schools of metaphysical thought. Some hold to the idea that anything on the physical plane is unspiritual, especially sex union. This idea holds back more aspirants than any other one factor.

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The Mars energy is your creative energy in its basic, most elemental state. That is why most of the greatest creative artists in all fields have had unusually strong sex drives. Some of them have used this drive in such undisciplined ways that they have brought notoriety upon themselves. They were not able to handle the energy properly so it tended to run away with them. Does that make them evil? Not at all. As we have said, the energy itself is just energy — neither good nor bad. Their ignorance in its use will bring repercussions and miseries that will eventually give them the ability to handle even more of the force. The repercussions attending misuse of an energy actually teach us how to handle it and give us the ability finally to handle more and more power without ill effects.

This basic Mars energy is the evolutionary energy as such. Your sex drives, whether you have been conscious of it or not, are expressions of the evolutionary energy. Your reproductive organs manufacturing hormones in your physical body are actually manufacturing evolutionary energy. These are the physical level expressions of the energy with which the Life Power creates and keeps creating the universe. It's just a matter of levels of expression within the time/space framework of our physical world. Your ability to have intensity of feeling has to do with that center . . . your ability to keep going, to have bravery and inspiration, etc.

That is why you hear me hammer so often about the importance of transmuting your attitude towards sex. We want you to know God. We want you to have union with the Most High. We know that you are going to do this only to the degree that you learn to revere the evolutionary energy on all levels.

The thing is, that the coiled up Kundalini energy at the base of the spine, the serpent Power, involves our whole spiritual capacity and holds the patterns of our habitual attitudes and responses. In the Mars area we have these patterns being shown in another way. In Lesson 12 we showed you that to develop control of your personal solar system you must work with techniques that stir the Kundalini without directly concentrating on the physical part of the body involved. This is the only safe way to work. It is the way we awaken ourselves to spiritual truths and reality. We then had you immediately relate this awakened force to the heart center, the True Ego seated in the heart. This center, as you know, involves your ability and capacity to love. Your capacity to love has to do with how much awakening you have stirred in the heart center.

So we first stir the energy, and then we immediately relate it to the heart center in our work with the personal solar-planetary system. Remember, these connections in us are part of the whole solar system. Just like a woven piece of cloth with its patterns, we have all the universal patterns interwoven within us. These are expressed in a very detailed manner within our inner solar, or cellular, system, and then from this personalized point we are interwoven into the universal system. We are a part of all of it.

Our first and immediate concern is naturally with that area that deals with our personality evolution. Our personality evolution is depen-

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dent upon the balance of forces and the capacity for expression of our interior solar system. This in turn is a reflection of the powers symbolized by the solar system in the heavens.

The Mars center, incidentally, is approximately two inches below the navel in terms of your physical body, though the real center, as we have said before, is not in the physical body.

Now this driving energy is first related to the heart by looking at the appropriate Tarot Key. What we are doing is saying in a symbolic language that we are ready to stir all the past, all the karma, all the patterns that we have lived through up to this point. These include our genetic and mass karma, as well as our personal Karma. We are stirring all this and then handing it over to the True Ego in the Sun Center. Through this Center do we experience our oneness with the Solar Logos, and through this Union our union with the Father in Chokmah, חכמה. We are taking it to the Highest Beingness aspect of our nature. Our true center of beingness isn't in the head, it is in the heart. Our brain holds certain evolutionary factors, but our center of I-ness is in and through the heart. Here we contact our Selfhood; here we finally get to the essence of everything we have thought, everything we have done, all the successes, all the failures, all the loving, and all the hating, as well.

The essence of all these things is brought into the heart center, where it becomes the background for our higher automatic feelings; not the personality feeling nature, but that deeper feeling nature that you may call your true and eternal soul. You have known the difference, haven't you? You have all been in spiritual work long enough and have learned to be objective enough to watch your personality with a deeper part of your being; watch it react with childish emotional responses perhaps, or with oversentimentality or anger. Somehow, a part of you knew these to be surface responses. You may have been taking it hard; you may even have been having a fit about something. That isn't the point. Somehow you knew that these reactions were from a surface area of your nature; and compared to a deeper part of your feeling nature, you knew them to be only a shadow. That other part of you, that which you share with the One Ego, reacts in a wordless way, watching with a sort of maternal amusement as your personality puts on its act. The deeper area of you usually makes itself known as something that must be done or understood because it comes to you as a principle. It is not like a personality compulsion. It usually comes as some deeper knowing that you can't put into words, because there are no words, really. It comes from a part of the soul that has taken the essence of an experience in such a way that the reaction from the soul has become strengthened in that special area or special condition.

Once a response has become a response from this deeper soul level it becomes more and more controlled, and we start seeing more and more what is really important. We see from a higher vista; we see a larger panorama. The enlarged vistas of awareness give us a better ability to handle our Mars energy.

So you can see why we had to go to the heart center before we stirred the Mars energy. The Mars center, as you can now see, is the energy that can run away with people in many different areas. Harsh temper, violence,

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hate, sadism, sexual incontinence — these are the negative expressions of this energy. Remember, all drives are the Mars energy, no matter where they are expressing. It is not good or bad in itself; it is the evolutionary level of the person or persons through whom it is expressing that makes the difference.

TECHNIQUE

For this technique you will need Key No. 21 with Key No. 0 above it. Key No. 19 and Key No. 16, with Key No. 20 above.

We will be working with awakening and controlling the positive Mars energies. First intone A-natural and look at Key 21, thus stirring the Kundalini force as in previous practices. Relate this energy to the Sun center by intoning D, imaging orange and looking at Key 19. Now look at Key 16, The Tower. Intone C-natural and see your aura as filled with a vibrating, brilliant red. See yourself as in the Tower. See the lightning strike the Tower and the figures falling. These falling figures symbolize your erroneous ideas about consciousness. The falling male figure symbolizes a false sense of separate will. The falling female figure is a symbol of the subconscious destructive patterns that have held you in bondage. As they fall, feel yourself as being freed, under the guidance of the One Ego. The false race opinions, the habit patterns that have chained you to repeated unwise actions and destructive relationships are falling away. You have seen the light. Remember, you cannot have a new condition without first destroying an old one. The positive side of Mars permits no rulership except God.

Now cast your gaze upward to Pluto, symbolized by Key 20 of Tarot. Pluto is the higher octave of Mars. It is said by astrologers to be the indicator of the highest spiritual attainments. Gabriel, the archangel in Key 20, is another aspect of the Ego. Surrender your little self to Him. Feel the sound vibration from his trumpet bathing you in the higher octave vibrations of Pluto, awakening you to rebirth . . . the birth of the Christ Child within.

AFFIRMATION

I stand ready for the lightning flash of true perception; ready to let go of my little self and surrender to The Self. Thus under the guidance of my Higher Soul will I courageously let go of the patterns and coffins of yesterday and emerge newborn into the Sun of Regeneration. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Fifteen

JUPITER (1)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Esoteric Astrology is aimed at helping us to recognize our place in the universe. There is a difference between our esoteric presentation and the usual view of exoteric astrologers. They often give us the impression that we are mere puppets being pulled around by the strings of universal forces. This fatalistic view is not part of the esoteric tradition. In Genesis we read: "Man is created in the image and likeness of God." This really refers to man as the Microcosm, or Universe in little. We are actually a complete universe within ourselves, reflecting the vast universe, the Macrocosm. Esoteric Astrology relates specifically to the development of an ability to see the universal patterns and relate them to physical and emotional responses in personality. The patterns unveil the harmony that exists between everything in nature. To the degree that we learn to understand these patterns, to that degree can we consciously use them to perfect our personalities. This is achieved by learning to balance and attune all the forces that play through personality.

Our personality is not a static thing. Everything is in motion. As we look out on the physical universe we see that everything is moving. Tarot Key No. 10, called the Wheel of Fortune and related to Jupiter, shows you this. It symbolizes the idea of whirling motion. Actually it relates, esoterically, to motion that never stops — perpetual motion. Key 10 astrologically corresponds to the Jupiter center at the solar plexus. This center correlates with certain universal electro-magnetic currents tied in with the planet Jupiter. There is a sort of electro-magnetic umbilical cord between the planets and the psychic center in our bodies. Keep in mind, however, that it is not in the physical body. The correct interpretation is that while we are in an incarnation expressing our consciousness in a physical body, that part of our selfhood, our self-consciousness, our powers which we have carried through from other incarnations, relates symbolically to what we call the Jupiter center. During the incarnation experience the solar plexus is the physical contact that receives this particular energy and then distributes it throughout the rest of our more subtle bodies.

The inner holy planets are related to these whirling forces which are located actually in our subtle bodies. Each and every one of these planets has its individual being. The planets in the heavens are their apparent outer body. At the time of our birth the relationship of the planets in the solar system form a certain pattern. This pattern is expressed as the individual's personality and his experiences. Whatever we see outside expresses something within us. Our astrological pattern holds within it the key to our evolutionary level and the kind of experience our higher being has chosen to take for a certain cycle.

The Wheel of Fortune itself shows you the idea of cyclic motion. The evolution of the universe is based on this motion. A growing, evolving universe. Consciousness in like manner is a growing, evolving element. It is growing through the same cyclic spiral motion.

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Every one of the Chakras is developed from the wound up Kundalini force in Key No. 21, where the cyclic motion is shown by the spirals held in the two hands. This is symbolized in a more specific form in Tarot Key No. 10.

Modern science often calls the solar plexus the abdominal brain, or second brain. This area holds together a group of very sensitive nerves. Even on the physical plane it is a sort of collecting station for impulses from the nervous system. Though all impulses go to the brain, certain impulses also collect in the solar plexus, i. e., those that have to do with physical functions. We want to understand the inner make-up of these aspects, because we must start thinking of the Solar Logos as a living Being. Whatever we think we are seeing when we look at the planets, they are actually the organs of this Vast Being. We are only seeing a certain limited view in a specialized way that makes it look like it has a particular form.

Jupiter in astrology is called the Greater Benefic. It is the most benefic planet in the solar system. It is said to be the bringer of all good. Each Key pictures evolution in a different way. The Tarot Keys stir your consciousness as you look at them. As you look, you are experiencing the vibratory rate of the various colors, lines and forms it contains. You are reacting to a symbolic pattern which is aimed at helping you to become attuned and awakened to larger fields of knowledge. In Key 10 the cyclic activity of evolution is expressed by the wheel. On the downward curve, or involutionary curve, there is a serpent or primal vital energy becoming involved in form. On the upward curve you see a creature with a man's body, but a dog's head, like the body of Horus. It is on the upward curve to symbolize the natural stages humanity has attained. On top is a sphinx, with a lion's body and a woman's head. The lion symbolically has to do with the whole driving energy of evolution which we discussed when studying Mars.

There are several symbols given to each kind of energy for a good reason. Only one symbol might lead to bigotry. This happens in religious groups consistently, as you know. It is necessary, in order to keep the mind expanding and growing, to not let consciousness get fixated on just one symbol for one thing. There are many symbols that express different phases of different forces. The lion symbolizes what the Freudian school calls the libido energy. It can also be called the Mars energy, the sexual energy, or the reproductive energy. It is that fiery force that drives into evolution. In alchemy the lion symbolizes this energy. There is the young green lion, the red lion, and the old lion. Each of these refers to a certain phase of control of that wild energy which, in its primordial state, is undifferentiated and uncontrolled. It can be very dangerous, just as a wild animal can be dangerous. The taming of the lion — Tarot Key 8, Strength — is one of the most extraordinary types of symbolism. Actually all the work of higher occultism has to do with the control, transmutation and exaltation of this force.

The Jupiter center or abdominal brain carries the knowledge of all of the evolutionary levels of life from the first stirrings of one cell existence up to the present human vehicle, which is the highest animal vehicle on this planet. It is an animal vehicle, you know. It is just that

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our evolving consciousness has learned how to tame the animal energy so it doesn't act in the same way. Our animal vehicle — the human body — has developed to a point that has given us the ability to control and transmute energies no animal below man is able to even remotely do as yet.

Now the thing that you want to keep in mind is that this knowledge located in the solar plexus area has a focal connection with your subtle bodies. This knowledge includes the ability to build the physical body. In previous lessons we have related this ability to subconsciousness. Jupiter is connected Qabalistically to subconsciousness. The same color, violet, which is attributed to Key 10 and Jupiter is also attributed on the Tree of Life to the sphere of the activity of the moon, Yesod, showing what you might call a harmonic coordination. You will see this again when we study the moon center and Tarot Key 2, the High Priestess. There is an intimate relationship between the Jupiter center and the moon center.

In terms of size, Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system and it is very much larger than any other. The Jupiter center, in essence, is the controlling area of the higher evolutionary development of our vehicles. This center is located at approximately the center of the body. It is also approximately at the center of our solar system. Before Jupiter you have Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars. After Jupiter there is Saturn, Neptune, Uranus and Pluto. There are four before and four after. Now take the wheel in Key 10. We have often heard that it is subconsciousness that carries the karmic patterns. Jupiter, as we have seen, is by harmonics very much related to and works with our planetary moon according to Esoteric knowledge. Our planetary moon is so tiny that in a sense you could say that Jupiter also has a great deal to do with our karmic patterns.

Astrologers usually say that Saturn gives us our unhappy karma, while Jupiter brings us our successes and joys. Actually they can both be responsible for either happiness or misery, depending upon our evolutionary level. Saturn starts a compression to hold you down more and give you responsibilities, but some people would be miserable without responsibility. They would feel that life is meaningless. The fact that a force can have the ability to compress or hold down doesn't mean that it is necessarily adverse. It can, if properly utilized and understood, bring a great deal of fulfillment as well as education.

Notice the four figures in the corners of Key No. 10. They are the symbols for the four fixed signs of the zodiac. The central wheel surrounded by the zodiac symbolizes the center that takes in and expresses energies from a master field, that is, from a universal field. It is like a radio or TV antenna that takes in the radio or TV wave energies and then expresses them in broadcasts and TV programs.

The solar plexus center in our individual solar system is the area in which we take in and store all sorts of very fine spiritual energies. Because of its name many have thought that it is related to the sun. This is not true. The Sun center is at the heart, the Ego center seated in the hearts of men. The Sun center does not store energies. It sends outward, expressing itself in and through us. The Jupiter center is the place in our inner holy vehicles where we store all energies. That is why, when you do color and sound exercises, you have felt a sort of tingling or electrical

kind of heat or queer energy in this area. Usually that is the first place you sense the awakening energies. When you get emotionally upset about something, or have feelings of tension and frustration, it usually affects you right in the solar plexus. So you can see how vital this center really is. However, the solar plexus is also most susceptible to the influx of loving and healing thoughts, as well as tensions and conflicts. On the subconscious levels all this is recorded, and it reacts upon us even when we are not consciously aware of the emotions. And the impact of the back and forth flow of energy from others takes place from this center, too.

Even though it is true that natal aspects incline us to express certain thoughts, feelings and actions, we are not slaves to these inclinations. If they are adverse, we can overcome them because consciousness is the real builder. Consciousness can raise the vibratory rate on which we express these tendencies. Our practices with the centers are aimed at such control.

The Jupiter center is related to certain types of personality traits. We all have Jupiter in our chart, we all have a solar plexus in our body, so we all have a Jupiter nature related to the vibratory rhythms symbolized by the planet Jupiter. What we are attempting to do with these specialized practices is to get the vibratory rates of all the planetary forces into harmonics. The Jupiter force must be very much in harmony with the Moon center, as well as with all the other whirling forces. As we stimulate these psychic centers for spiritual illumination, they must be harmonized, balanced and attuned with each other.

Jupiter as the ruler of Sagittarius rules religion, the higher mind and philosophy. Undeveloped Jupiterians are usually bigoted, ostentatious or overconventional. The vibratory rate of Jupiter in this case is not in harmony with the other cosmic forces. One meaning of the four figures of Key 10 is the wider vistas of consciousness that are attained by the evolutionary cyclic process. More developed Jupiterian types have a basic understanding, wisdom and philosophical comprehension that expresses in a depth of compassion for their fellowman. Actually most of us in occultism are over-balanced in this respect. We must learn to balance our mercy with severity. Just having a very well developed Jupiterian center is not enough. This expansive quality has to be properly harmonized with all the other centers and their qualities so that we can express our compassion with discrimination. Otherwise our very love and understanding can lead to such laxness in punishment of wrong-doing that we actually are aiding and abetting evil. The awakened Jupiter center is a key to the balance of past and future. We recall the past, become aware of the patterns that lead to manifestation in our lives, and then project this knowledge into the future for a more awakened life.

The energy stored within our solar plexus when properly awakened and utilized gives us the ability to achieve spiritual illumination and healing powers during our meditational periods. Actually we start storing this energy automatically in the whirling vortex of force at our solar plexus when we get ourselves into the vibratory correlation that occult work and study always initiate. Then life begins to bring us experiences at a faster rate. We are guided into an accelerated pattern of existence. I am sure most of you have noticed this happening in your family and professional

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lives. You automatically start attracting experiences that you need in order to expand your awareness and your consciousness.

In these states of accelerated experiences we are able to cut down considerably on the number of incarnations required to our ultimate aim of adeptship. It is worth working toward, is it not?

The exercises we give are presented in a way that gradually helps you achieve a well-rounded and attuned spiritual vehicle. They are specifically aimed at the correlation and attunement of our personal solar system. We thus become harmonized with the Solar Logos, which in turn brings our personalities into vibratory contact with higher levels of human consciousness. This is not a matter of just technique. I must remind you that no technique alone can achieve this contact. This is where some aspirants go astray. It is an important part, but along with technique you have to understand and control your psychological states and your emotions and your actions. We have to begin correlating our conscious thoughts and emotions with our knowledge. In time we start remembering and utilizing this knowledge. Then we begin living these wisdom teachings. We are brought more experiences and perceptions. This is the accelerated growth process of conscious participation in the cosmic evolution. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Sixteen

JUPITER (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Once we have been able to release ourselves from the restricting patterns of the past, we can start moving to our greater good, symbolized by Jupiter and the cyclic motion attributed to Key No. 10. We must first escape from the dead coffins of yesterday's unhappiness. We all have a tendency to hold on to what happened to us as children — the hurts and sorrows of the past. We want to blame all our problems on yesterday or karma or the evils of others. When we knock ourselves out of these prisons of negative reaction and response to the events and circumstances in our lives, we release the energy necessary to expand to greater areas of awareness; therefore greater riches. We open ourselves to the benefic vibration of the expansive Jupiter. Expansion is the only fortune that there is . . . the only real riches.

Jupiter, in mythology, is ruler of the gods, thus master of the destinies of man. Kaph, the Hebrew letter on Key 10, symbolizes grasp or comprehension. The Greater Fortune is really the development of the ability to comprehend the universal laws which govern human destiny. This comprehension has to do with our ability to correlate our personal activities and emotions with the cycles of cosmic activity. It ultimately leads us to the freedom from restriction and misfortune associated with the beneficence of Jupiter. The power of Jupiter is a power of man. This realization, however, must be more than intellectual. We must act as if we knew our every action, thought and deed were cosmic, as well as personal. Repeated conscious awareness of this grows our new comprehension into the very cells of our bodies. Eventually we reap the fruits of this comprehension in the Higher Illuminations that come with transmuted cellular consciousness.

From our course on the 32 PATHS OF WISDOM you have learned that the consciousness associated with Jupiter is "The Rewarding Intelligence of Those Who Seek" or "The Intelligence of Desirous Quest". Comprehension of the law of cycles actually does lead to the satisfaction of every desire. It does mean, however, that you must really seek. You must really want to know, with the driving power of emotion behind it. Seeing the law of cause and effect at work in your life is the beginning of this awareness. When we truly see that our future good depends upon our present actions, we have opened the door for the Jupiterian vibration and will be able to detect its expression in our lives. No matter what aspect it happens to be making in our personal charts, we can expand ourselves to express its beneficence more freely. The ability to express good fortune in our lives is, as we have seen in our last lesson, related to the proper functioning of the Jupiter center in the human body. It is situated in the abdomen behind the stomach. All the abdominal viscera and the assimilation of food are controlled from this organ.

Awakening this vortex of force to full function gives us a higher level comprehension of the cyclic activity inherent in all of nature. This higher knowledge has to do with the dissolution through 'philosophical

mercury' that you learned about in our course on THE GREAT WORK. The two wavy lines in the second circle of the wheel in Key 10 are a symbol of dissolution. The symbols for Mercury, Sulphur and Salt are also in this circle that corresponds to the formative world. The dissolution and recombination of what they stand for is to practice the Great Work. It is in this plane of consciousness that dissolution through right knowledge can make available to us the energies locked up in form. These are the energies that we can then re-combine to bring about the circumstances that give us a more abundant life.

On the psychological level this same principle can be applied to our search for higher levels of awareness. We dissolve the habit patterns, traumas and negative responses that hold us back. The energy so released is then recombined into the patterns of habitual meditation and positive response to guidance from above that leads to the heights of illumination and spiritual attainment. One meaning of the sphinx at the top of the wheel in Key 10 is the perfection of this ability to respond to guidance from the Higher Self by identification of our True Self with this Source of All. The sword she carries is a symbol of the formative world (suit of swords in Tarot) and symbolizes understanding and ability to utilize the formative forces.

Responding to guidance from above gives us the understanding necessary to utilize the forces of the formative world. This ability is the Greater Fortune attributed to Jupiter. The combination of lion and woman (Tarot Key No. 8) shows that this comprehension, this right utilization of the power to create forms and patterns both physically and mentally, combined with the driving vital energy (lion) of reproduction, is our Greater Fortune. On lower levels of understanding this same vital energy locked in ignorant and outworn patterns of action is what keeps us in the chains and bonds of misery.

On the Tree of Life, Chesed, דוד , the fourth Sephirah, is the sphere of the activity of Jupiter. Mercy and Compassion are the meaning of the word Chesed. As we have seen, the well-developed Jupiterian expresses these qualities. The practice of true compassion has a real transmuting power. It is the most essential practice in the awakening of the Jupiter center. Another name for this fourth Sephirah is Gedulah, גדולה , meaning greatness, magnificence, majesty. The root of this noun is gadal, גדל , "to twist, to twirl", which brings to mind the spiral motion connected with Jupiter and Key No. 10. It has a secondary meaning of "to grow, to increase in size or power", which ideas are directly connected with the expansiveness of Jupiter. The attribution of memory to Chesed also ties in with the Jupiter vibration. Awakening of the Jupiter center, as we have seen, enables us to correlate our personal activities with cosmic principles. This is really a recollection that extends our personal memory to cosmic memory. Eventually, as we expand this memory, we will be able to recall the entire creative process held in the Universal Mind.

Astrology can help us to understand our own personal cycles. We do not mean to advocate the daily gazing at aspects. This can lead to another kind of slavery if overdone. But, with a little watching, we can usually figure out just what cycles are best for us to commence new

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outside activities and which are better for introspection and study. Any knowledge properly utilized can be an asset, but misused can be just another crutch. Astrology is no exception.

In our COLOR AND SOUND course you learned that the Jupiter center corresponds to the violet vibration and the tone A-sharp. This nerve center in the sympathetic nervous system carries the full record of evolution imprinted upon its cells. Because Jupiter rules Sagittarius, the Jupiterian vibration is strong in the Sagittarius area of our bodies and in the Sagittarius personality type. Jupiter is co-ruler with Neptune in Pisces, so the Jupiterian vibration is strong in the Piscean bodily area and personality type. Through Pisces there is a connection with the cellular consciousness. Jupiter is exalted in Cancer, which is ruled by the Moon. This is another indication of the close correspondence between the Moon and Jupiter — between the pituitary body and the solar plexus.

The Moon symbolizes the pattern-impressing element of subconsciousness, while Jupiter corresponds to the vibration that holds the evolutionary memory. In this connection the Cancer area of the body — stomach, mammary glands and liver — responds especially to this combination Moon/Jupiter vibration. This extreme impressibility is reflected in the Cancerian personality type, as we will see when we get to the signs of the zodiac.

Remember, the Jupiterian vibration must be balanced with the other planetary vibrations for a completeness in personality expression. Highlights of emphasis here and there give individuality and uniqueness, but too much over-emphasis of any vibration destroys balance in both bodily function and personality expression. A lack of any vibration has a similar effect. Over-emphasized, the Jupiter vibration tends to over-conventionalism, pride, materialistic-orientation and ostentation. Ill-aspected, towards blocking, the expression of this vibration leads to selfishness, ill temper, narrow-mindedness and fanaticism. Well-balanced and aspected, Jupiter brings our good fortune, a healthy body and the fulfillments of our aspirations. Remember, no matter how it may be aspected in your personal chart, the Tarot technique method of balancing and awakening of the planetary centers will lead to the grasp of Higher Truths that is the basis of all beneficence and good fortune.

TECHNIQUE

We will be particularly concerned with the Jupiter vibration in this technique, but we will begin as before with Key No. 21 in order to arouse the Kundalini energy.

Have before you Key 21, Key 19, Key 16 and Key 10, in that order, with their corresponding color cards. Intone the proper notes and visualize the colors connected with each of the centers we have exercised in previous lessons. Now look at Key 10. Mentally permeate your aura and your body with the violet vibration as you intone the note A-sharp. Image yourself as at the center of the turning wheel, unmoved. As the wheel turns, your circulatory system carries the comprehension of the cyclic activities of the cosmos to every cell in your body. This knowledge is already imprinted on the cells of the solar plexus, but we

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must become aware, consciously, of our hidden wisdom in order to reap the good fortune of the enlightened life.

Meditate on the symbolism of Key 10 for five minutes. This Key is a shorthand symbol for all your knowledge of the cyclic activities of the universe. Through this center, when it is functioning properly, we can expand our personal memory — our cellular memory — into cosmic memory. We can recall the principles of creation, the methods of manifestation that are as true on the personal level as they are on the cosmic. We open ourselves to guidance from above and unlock the door so that the Lord of Fortune can manifest in our lives.

AFFIRMATION

I feel myself as one with the cosmic ebb and flow. The secrets of creation are part of my Divine Knowledge, part of my cellular consciousness. To partake of this Wisdom of the Ages I surrender my little self to guidance from the One. Then, in an ever-increasing measure, the expansive Jupiterian beneficence will express itself in all areas of my life. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Seventeen

VENUS (1)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

The Venus Center in Tarot is symbolized by Tarot Key No. 3, The Empress, who in turn symbolizes Creative Imagination and the power of love. Mars symbolizes the drive to sexual unity, while Venus symbolizes Affection. Creative Imagination goes along with real affection. You cannot really love unless you have enough creative imagination to be able to put yourself in another's place. The power of Venus has to do more than anything else with our ability to develop relationships with others. In astrology the seventh house of marriage and partnerships is ruled by Libra, a Venus sign.

The emotional life is something that we little understand. Nothing can be created unless it is charged with emotional depth. All creative artists express this power of caring about what they create, no matter in what field they are participating. Even a mathematician has a feeling of satisfaction that is emotional about his intellectual triumphs in solving a difficult problem. No true forward thrust of livingness, no true motion toward growth has ever come about, except that it has been charged with emotion. People often erroneously believe that an intellectual idea is cold and abstract. They are not aware of their own nature in this case. The objective intellect is inescapably merged with emotion. When you have a perception, even if it be an abstract perception, remember your feelings! When suddenly a new awareness dawned on your intellect, were you not elated? Ecstatic? It is this surge of livingness that is the emotion.

I have often seen people who considered the repression of emotion desirable and advanced. They would repress their feelings with determination. Often they have a deep intensity of emotion just quivering to express itself, but imprisoned and chained. I have said to them, "Oh, you have a lot of emotion." They considered this an insult. Actually, I had meant it as a compliment. The degree of your emotions is the degree of your capacity to love. Love in itself is the essence of emotion. It is the emotional life of God. No matter what you have ever loved, whether it has been a blade of grass, a little trinket or another human being, it has been an integrating force. Love can never harm anyone or anything. Even if later you decided you had not really loved, that it had been only an infatuation, it has had its effect. You really did love to the degree to which you had the capacity at that time, colored by whatever neurotic patterns you may have been burdened with at that period. To say, "I really did not love" is nonsense. It is foolish to look back on apparent past mistakes and deny love. Whoever charged our emotions with feelings of love, we loved, even if only for a moment, even if the stirring was done because of false concepts in our minds. Years ago the Master R pointed this out to me and Dr. Case. He said: "Do you really think that the merging of certain atoms that form temporary elements and compounds are any less holy than those that form more stable ones?" Whether we have loved for a second or whether we have loved for an eternity, it has to do with the emotional force expressed. Whatever we

feel deeply about, this we experience inevitably. The mind follows the emotional life, not vice versa. It is our job to turn over the direction of our emotions to the Higher Mind. That is why the woman looks to the Angel in Tarot Key No. 6. This, too, takes desire. We must yearn for Higher perception and guidance with a burning desire.

Every desire, according to the Western Mystery Training system, is from God, in God and of God. Every desire. There is no such thing as a desire that does not originate from the Universal Creator. However, to the degree that we are immature and unenlightened, to that degree do we take the undifferentiated power of desire, the Venus power, and express it in ways that get us and everyone else into trouble. At this stage we are not as yet able to express our desires with discrimination; thus they bring us seemingly more pain than joy.

Some Eastern methods tell us to kill our desire. It is no doubt true that in a previous age, in the early part of the Piscean dispensation, this was a necessary discipline because of the wild, uncontrolled emotionalism of the human life wave at that time. It was imperative to get this savage, wild emotion under control. During that period people killed each other over nothing and there was little thought given to the individual. We must realize, however, that what is right for one age may become wrong for another. What we teach a child to do at one age becomes untenable as he gets older. When we let ourselves get fixated with old ideas and attitudes, we are harkening to the circumscribing of the future by past events, as is symbolized in the parable of Lot's wife. This can lead to a suppression of a portion of ourselves that could be hastening our evolution.

The hastening of evolution has to do with speeding up experiences, and this necessitates strong desire, because desire is the impetus of action. Actually this idea of killing out desire was born of inaccurate translations of Buddhistic teachings. The result has been that we have a large following of true aspirants who think that the killing of desire is imperative to spiritual attainment. Control is the keynote, not annihilation. Actually they kill out the very power that would give them the ability to be at one with the Universal life.

What is that One? Love. This love, the Venusian vibration, is that power. Isn't all understanding love and at-one-ment? If you and I share an intellectual idea, we are at one. We are loving in the particular area of that thought. If you and I are at one in an emotional reaction, we are expressing love in relation to that reaction. The feeling nature gives impetus to your intellect.

The whirling vortex of energy where the Venus vibration enters the body is located physically in the throat area, including the thyroid and parathyroid glands. This is the area where strong emotion is felt, but the thyroid glands also affect the intellect. Underactive thyroid conditions cause the mind to become sluggish and dull. Completely inactive functioning brings imbecility. Those who suffer from an overactive thyroid are unable to control their emotions. Their emotions seem to cause them to go to pieces at the slightest provocation. They have 'nervous energy' that demands constant activity. They find it im-

possible to relax, and they burn their energies unwisely. Though they think very rapidly, their intellects are continuously being swept by emotions to the point where reason is seemingly drowned out.

We must always remember that our bodies are the instrument. In the case of the underactive thyroid, the body, our instrument, is unable to perform properly because it is being robbed of a very necessary hormone. Just as a musician can be very fine, but if the instrument upon which he is performing is out of tune, he will be able to produce nothing but discord. The body likewise must be in tune in order to perform properly. In our work with attuning the centers we are creating more beautiful harmonies within our vehicle. We are doing it by using the intellect to develop the power of the emotions under proper control.

It is necessary in this dawning Aquarian Age that we develop more power. We cannot kill the force of desire anyway. All we do is freeze it up or wall it away. This is the primal power of God. The power of love. Realize that it is through the emotional life that ecstasy is experienced. Unity with God is attained through the balance of emotion and intellect. Notice the pointing finger in Tarot Key No. 1, The Magician, which we will discuss when we get to Mercury. That is the power of the self-conscious intellect, but no matter how accurately we point an arrow, we must have the bow for power if we expect to hit the mark.

The push of our emotions is the push of evolution. This push of evolution is the Divine Discontent that drives us to ever better circumstances and experiences. At immature levels it may result in monstrous acts. The desire nature is ever driving us toward completion of ITS PLAN . . . ITS IMAGE. That is why Tarot Key No. 3, The Empress, the Venusian desire nature is assigned to the pair of opposites, wisdom and folly. Nothing could be more appropriate than this designation to the way in which we use our drive of desire. Through our use of desire we make many mistakes, but these very mistakes, because of the repercussions we must bear, grow us and evolve us. Next time we make wiser choices and more accurate decisions. How else, indeed, can we evolve? We cannot be twelve until we have first been eleven. However, Aspirants (such as all of you are) can and do speed up the process. We evolve more rapidly, but you must realize that the principles cannot be put aside. There is no shortcut, except that we accelerate our learning cycle. We experience more and learn from our experiences more quickly. In other words, we are not as likely to repeat incessantly the same mistakes.

Venus personifies the unfailing power of love. Love has many forms of manifestation. It is the attractive force which maintains the order of the universe. It is the power behind every form of desire. A strong desire sets up mental and physical responses at points far distant from the person who is creating the mental image. Love is an integrating force, but we must learn to love. Most of us have fears. We are afraid of really letting ourselves love because we know how vulnerable we are. We are vulnerable because we want to be loved so yearningly. When we want to be appreciated, we are wanting love. When we want to be admired, we are wanting love. All these things are wanting to be loved. Even when we want power, curious as this

may seem, we are really wanting love. This, of course, is using this force in a very warped manner. Even more we want to love. All of us know, intuitively, that the greatest ecstasy in life is being able to love; but because we are so vulnerable we are afraid. Yet The Empress carries a heart as her shield. Your only real shield is love. To free ourselves from this fear we must be willing to love no matter how much we may get hurt, until we learn to love with discrimination and wisdom. We learn to love with discrimination when we get our emotional life under enough direction to start seeing love as the way that the Divine Life experiences the ecstasies of livingness in and through us.

Remember that the Venus vibration is both cosmic and personal. The Life Power manifests the world through creative imagination, and we, "created in His image", likewise create our world through imagination. Subconscious imagery, the patterns in subconsciousness, build our bodies from birth to adulthood. This same power of creation can be used to perfect our physical vehicles toward adeptship. On the Tree of Life the sphere of the activity of Venus is Netzach, the desire nature. From Netzach the path of Tzaddi carries the Venusian influence into Yesod, the Vital Soul. Tzaddi is associated with meditation. Meditation is an essential practice in both bringing imagery to fruition and in changing the etheric patterns that manifest a higher consciousness. Desire is the power. We must really want any change in order to give it the drive necessary for manifestation.

Roses are the flowers of Venus. They symbolize love, desire, beauty, secrecy. The rose stands for human love. In the garden of The Magician they are side by side with lilies. In this instance the lilies symbolize universal love, while the roses are its human expression. When man's love nature is perfectly attuned to cosmic patterns, there is no pain in love. What is meant is that desire must be controlled and love purged of its attachment. This does not mean, however, that we do not love personally. It means that we must become aware of the cosmic, as well as the personal, significance of our love. Our personal love must be a symbol of universal love. This does not detract one iota from our personal attachments that cause jealousy, possessiveness and all the other pain engendering emotions that destroy the very thing we want the most. It is only when we restrict our awareness of love to a purely personal level that it often brings pain.

When we love we must see our love as an expression of the Divine attractive quality that has whirled universes into being and kept them all in their proper courses. We must see ourselves as part of this great drama, see our love as a representation of the "strong force of all forces, overcoming every subtle and penetrating every solid thing". This will help us also to develop the necessary discrimination in whom we give our personal love to. We will be able to choose more wisely when we approach all expressions of love with reverence. The cross of six squares with a rose attached symbolizes this union of personal love with that of the Universal One. We learn to love as God loves, flowing out love to all, deserving or not; but, at the same time, not getting caught up in close relationships with those who are too immature as yet to accept our personal concentrated love. We cannot learn to love all of life unless we also love

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personally. Personal love is a concentration of this power that can only be attained in close relationships. You cannot learn to love the world unless you have been willing to risk yourself in all out personal love. So it is not personal love that is attachment; it is our inability to relate it to the whole and thus let the universal love force flow out unstintingly through us to all of life.

- 8 Creation hath its origin in life unlimited,
 Yet for the sake of manifestation
 Doth that life descend into the appearance
 Of Time and Place,
 And that which hath neither end nor beginning
 Appeareth to be born,
 And to be brought at last to death.

Deluded by this appearance are those ignorant ones
In whom the light of my wisdom hath not yet dawned.
From their delusion springeth a false desire,
And from that false desire is generated unrighteous action.

Yet nothing is performed save by my power,
And I am the real Actor in these deluded ones,
 As truly as in any sage.
From the fires of pain and suffering
Kindled by their ignorance,
In my good time shall they come forth,
Cleansed from the dross of illusion,
Resplendent images of my golden self.

(from THE BOOK OF TOKENS)

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ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Eighteen

VENUS (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Venus, in astrology, is said to be the Lesser Benefic. Next to Jupiter, she brings more good fortune as she transits through the heavens or aspects our charts than any other planet. What, then, is this quality that brings us joy second only to the grasp of universal principles at work in our life? As we can see from Tarot Key No. 3, this quality or attribute is creative imagination fed by desire. Venus is our desire nature expressed in creativity and love. This force, particularly active in the nerve center back of the wall of the throat, has great influence upon the functions of the thyroid and parathyroid glands. The secretion of these glands has an important effect upon the emotional nature, as we have seen, and upon the action of the brain in the production of mental imagery. This same Venusian force is also dominant in the region of the kidneys, where it has much to do with maintaining the chemical equilibrium of the blood. Thus the Venus influence is closely related to mental and physical balance, particularly the balance of body chemistry.

The Venusian force is very active in the sense of touch. On the mental side it inclines to all that pertains to the higher attributes of the mind and imagination. Through its operation in the glandular system, its effect on temperament is powerful. When its higher aspects are brought out it makes the nature sympathetic, affectionate, harmonious and cheerful. To bring out these higher attributes, meditation on Tarot Key No. 3 impresses subconsciousness with the positive symbolism of this vibration.

The rich fruitfulness of the Empress' garden refers to the operation of the Venus force in the production of mental imagery. Imagination is the power which is more potent than any other in human progress. Every improvement in our ways of living must be imagined before it can be brought into actual expression. Imagination is the root of those forms of human activity which enrich, feed and beautify every department of human experience. Thus the picture of the Empress shows us types of beauty in the roses and types of usefulness in the ears of wheat growing at her feet.

The chief value of this vibration is its power to stimulate creative imagination. It does this along practical lines as well as in the field of the higher arts. The inventor and the mechanic, the business executive who has to make plans, the man or woman in public life who has to foresee and prepare for the future — all these must use the power of creative mental imagery just as truly as does the writer or the dramatist, the poet or the painter. Even in pure science, creative imagination is of paramount importance. Thus we find that men like Einstein or Swan, celebrated for mathematical achievements, are often proficient also in some of the arts, such as music, painting, sculpture or literature.

In all horoscopes Venus is a representative of the reaction of personality to environment. Venus is called the planet of love, and what is love but reaction to outer stimulus?

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When the aspects to Venus are benefic our reactions are pleasant or, at the worst, we give the other fellow "the benefit of the doubt". The tendency is to 'skip' what might be unpleasant and to turn to those things which we know to be contributory to what we consider to be happiness. Her influence tends to accelerate and make perfect that which we wish manifested. When Venus is well aspected, imagination picks out and elaborates every thought which is pleasing to the personality. Creative interests, therefore, prosper under her sway, be they related to love and physical reproduction, or art and the birth of a poem or painting, or business and an attractive presentation of its objects and aims.

Adverse aspects to Venus stimulate the creative function just as fully, but the tendency is to develop negative thoughts, and the result is quite the reverse of the above. It is well to remember that each of us truly creates his own world, and that we are magnets of attraction for the manifestation of those qualities and conditions which we have put our thoughts upon. By use of Tarot Key 3 we can overcome this negative tendency, giving our subconsciousness the necessary positive symbolism. By the use of discrimination we may then choose which type of growth we wish pollenized — weeds or flowers. Just looking at this Key will do much to impress the subconsciousness with a proper sense of selection. However, in order to give our images the necessary power, they must be driven by desire. Good, bad or indifferent desire is what gives impetus to imagination. Desire is what causes our images to multiply for the production of future events in our lives. Multiplication is the result of repetition. That is why we must repeat the mental images we want to become manifest over and over again until they seemingly have a life of their own. Self-consciousness gives us the seed idea, but it is subconscious multiplication that gathers the forces necessary for fruition, just as the seed in growth gathers material to it for the production of a living entity.

In the 32 PATHS OF WISDOM we find that Key 3 is called the Luminous Intelligence. Solar energy is the actual physical force which assumes form when we exercise our imagination. Mental images are patterns for physical conditions. That is why creative imagination is also assigned to Tiphareth on the Tree of Life. Under ordinary circumstances this process of the embodiment of mental images is so slow and complex that we cannot trace all the links in the chain. Nevertheless, though we cannot see all the links, the power of Venus is the basis of all our environmental conditions. The secret of dominion is to learn to so control our imagery that only those ideas that we want manifest in our lives are allowed to multiply by attention and creation.

The Venus vibration is the basis of our ability to create new combinations of ideas. Creative imagination elaborates the conditions spontaneously provided by nature, changing the original seed forms into new forms which in their turn are points of departure for further growth and development.

As we know, the throat center where the Venus vibration rules is the center of strong emotion. To arouse this center to full activity is to develop also the depth of feeling required to give our creations the necessary force. The pearl necklace that the Empress wears shows seven pearls, correlating it with all of the seven nerve centers. It is through

the use of imagination and love that these centers are controlled and balanced.

In alchemy Venus is called "our copper", the power of desire. This desire comes to us formless, at first, through the Venus center. This indefinite urge of desire is transformed into "visible coin". These are mental images partaking of the moon vibration, which represents the subconscious storehouse of memory. Every definite mental image is built from this material, these impressions stored in subconsciousness. Turning them, then, to "redness" is giving them the drive, the power of Mars. Redness has to do with action, either mental or physical. We must act on our images in order to bring them into manifestation.

Venus always personifies the unfailing power of love. Love has many forms of manifestation, but basically it is the attractive force which maintains the order of the universe. It is the power behind every form of desire. Realize that your desires have real substance and real power. A clear-cut image is a real thing formed of mental substance.

Always remember that no matter what your aspects to Venus may be, our work with the interior stars so combines and coordinates the chemical and electrical energies which enter the body that they tend to become perfectly balanced in their functioning. Our natal or progressed chart might show us that the Venus vibration is restricted or unfortunately aspected. This would indicate that we needed to do a little extra work with Key 3 for a time. As we work with balancing and awakening to full function the seven centers, we free from restriction the vibrations that are blocked and tone down any undue overemphasis. This is what makes our approach to astrology so different from the exoteric presentation. We want to know what our tendencies are only to make the most of our talents, develop any deficiencies, and tone down any erratic expressions.

Key No. 3 as the Luminous Intelligence of the 14th Path of Wisdom is "She Who Sets in Order". Venus as patroness of love and beauty intimates that this order is not mere rigid exact regularity. It has also its aesthetic aspect. Thus the original Hebrew commentary on the 14th Path as given in our course 32 PATHS OF WISDOM included the idea of "perfection of structure". This might also be rendered as "beautiful arrangement" or "beautiful patterns". This links up with all you have learned about Venus as the image-building power. The objective of the image-making power of the One Life is the production of beautiful forms through which to express. Thus it is written "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness". Holiness has nothing to do with a long-faced sanctimonious attitude, nor with attempts to stifle freedom and joy with rigid rules of conduct. It is just the opposite. Holiness is the manifestation of freedom, of beauty, of happiness, of health and of joy. Holiness and sanctification are one and the same; thus the 14th Path attributed to Venus ends in Binah, the sanctifying Intelligence. Venus is the key to this holiness for love and imagination; heart and feeling are the truly magical secrets. To get this Magic working in your life we will proceed to the technique for awakening the full power of this integrating force in your life.

TECHNIQUE

In this technique we will be concentrating on developing our love

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nature and our creative ability.

Start by going through the exercises for Saturn, the Sun, Mars and Jupiter. This does not really take long once you get the knack of it. Now look at Key 3, The Empress, and the green color card. Intone F-sharp and feel the green vibration permeating your whole body, including your aura. In your imagination see yourself as the Empress, whether you are male or female. Note the crown of twelve stars on your head, the crescent moon at your feet, the roses by your side and the shield of love that you hold in your hand. Think about someone you love very deeply or someone you have loved. If you love a little pet more than anything in the world, think of that pet. What we are trying to do is arouse the emotion of love in any way that we can. Feel love well up within you, filling you with its substance, pervading you with its integrating force. Now pour it out, pour it out from your heart like a gushing stream. It is truly fluidic, so it is not difficult to express it in this way. Pour it out, first to those you love most dearly, then to all your acquaintances. Next pour it out to all of life. Image yourself as the center of the Cube of Space. Pour it out to all six directions. As you proceed with this meditation, think especially of the troubled areas of the world and of anyone you believe has harmed you. Love is a universal force more powerful than any other. The more you project it, the more returns to you. This practice will not only help you develop your love nature and your creative imagination; it will also help free you from your fears about loving too much.

AFFIRMATION

The power of love flows unceasingly through my personality. I am an open channel for the Life Power to pour out love to all of His creatures. Love is my shield and my ecstasy. No longer will I fear that it can hurt me. All and in all it is the dominant power of evolution. Thus I project it freely to all of life in order to make room for more. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Nineteen

MOON (1)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

The High Priestess, Tarot Key No. 2, is full of Moon symbolism. The crown on her head shows the periodicity of the Moon and the pillars relate to her polarity to the Sun. Polarity has much to do with the recording mechanism of memory also. Notice that the High Priestess is holding a wound up scroll showing spiral, cyclic motion with the word Tora, meaning law, written upon it. The law, in this particular Tarot Key, is related to its karmic aspects, that is, the development of today from yesterday, the development of what we are now from the evolutionary processes of past experiences and past incarnations. This law is being held by the High Priestess who symbolizes subconsciousness. The Moon, astrologically, relates to subconsciousness as Principle.

Now, the Moon that we see in the heavens is the closest body to the earth and thus has a most intense influence upon our planet and upon all living beings thereon. This is evident in the way the moon affects the tides. Inside our body we carry something like 75% to 87% liquid. As we have evolved from the primordial we have become more and more independent of the ocean. Considering our liquid content, imagine the influence that the Moon must have on our bodies alone. Everything that affects us physically — as for instance the pull of gravitation from the moon — also affects the consciousness of every one of our cells. We have thus far only considered the physical inter-action. It follows that there are also emotional and mental inter-reactions.

The Moon center in our body is attributed to the pituitary gland which is located in the brain at the root of the nose. Our modern scientists call this particular body the master gland. The Moon center correlates with that part of our consciousness where everything resides that we have ever been, done or experienced from the cosmic as well as the individual point of view. That is another meaning of the scroll. It is not mere words; it is a record. Our Eastern brothers call this principle the Akashic record. This refers to the subtle substance, impressionable as wax, that holds memory. Those who achieve a certain level of consciousness can read these records and thereby recover much of the past.

According to Esoteric Astrology, this particular level of consciousness, the subconscious principle, is the means by which we can eventually experience unity with those ahead of us on the Path; those whose self-consciousness is superconscious to us. It is also through this principle that we come to a point where we can become one with all of life. We can know what it feels like, for example, to be a tree, a bird, or even a stone.

On the Tree of Life the sphere of the activity of the Moon is Yesod, which is attributed to the sex organs of the Grand Man. The idea is that the whole reproductive process is controlled by the energy part of us which we call the Moon Center. Now, of course, we discussed the sex

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drive in relation to Mars. No aspect is really separate from another. All things are inter-related. Some aspects are expressions of outer phenomena, while others are expressions of the same force in its workings on the inner spheres. Mars relates to the sex energy in the particular area of the specific organs where the glands are at work manufacturing chemicals. These chemicals pour through the blood-stream and feed the physical vehicle as well as all the finer vehicles. The Moon is related to the principle of reproduction and its activity throughout the entire planet. This is the principle in terms of every blade of grass, every flower, every creature. It relates to the processes of every living being that reproduces itself from the most minute single cell to the largest complex of cells that we call the higher creatures. The Moon Center is the vortex of force where the principle of reproduction resides on all planes, including mental reproduction, which is the basis of memory.

The High Priestess symbolizes the pure virginal element of life. However, virginal does not have the same meaning most people in the western world connect with this term. The western world's ideas of this term have come to us through the puritanical thoughts and feelings that have had a determination to see the reproductive process, in man at least, as a symbol of evil. In a way, this very sickness has been an aid to evolution in the larger picture. Mis-usage of the principle of sex does waste energy, and therefore it becomes necessary during certain periods of history to concentrate this energy in order to bring evolution to higher states. The orgiastic, animalistic expression of this force that was rampant at a still earlier stage of evolution wasted the energy that is necessary to evolve us into higher beings. However, remember that in Western Occultism we do not advocate celibacy as such. It is sometimes necessary to go through periods of celibacy for the conservation of energy, but it is not a matter of being more pure. Purity is our attitude toward the reproductive energy. It is our ability to include in our expressions spiritual feelings and the higher aspects of love as symbolized by the Empress whom we studied in connection with Venus. The conservation of the sex force for certain periods is for the purpose of charging our blood with a superabundance of energy in order to awaken and balance the higher chakras. Remember that concentration for a certain time does not mean that the energy so concentrated is evil. It is never evil when it is expressed with idealism, love and beauty.

To return to the Tree of Life we see that the sphere of the activity of the Moon is called the clear, or pure, intelligence. This word 'intelligence' as related to the sphere of the Moon could also be rendered as 'the pure or clear expression of the emanation of God', or as 'the clear or pure expression of God's drive to unity'. Of the Divine Feminine, Qabalah also says "forever pure and undefiled", which doesn't, as we have said, mean virginal in its ordinary usage. It means that the mind and heart are pure because of knowledge that in union, Divine is meeting with Divine. This becomes the only reason for unity in those who have higher spiritual aspirations.

The Moon Center, the pituitary body as the master gland, is that

part of our brain which when stimulated inspires activity in all the other glands of the body. It is in and through subconsciousness that all of the glands and all of the activities of the body become stimulated. Yesod, its sphere of activity, is also called Basis or Foundation. That foundation is related to reproduction and to the scroll which symbolizes what we have been in all our yesterdays, including past incarnations.

You were born with tendencies, and these tendencies are basically that which is related to the Moon center. In other words, you come with a subconscious memory of certain experiences even though you do not remember them consciously. Your reactions to experience, however, will be in terms of what you have developed in the past. That is why, for example, children brought up in the same environment, even twins with almost identical charts, will react to life in very different manners. Of course even the charts of identical twins are not exactly identical, as we have stated before. Our reincarnational tendencies account for these differences. It used to be thought that everything was caused by environmental influences. I used to believe this myself. I believed that if we developed perfect environment for humanity, evil and pain would disappear from the world. I decided that all we needed were social reforms. Well, social reforms we need, and all true occultists have this desire in their hearts and souls; nevertheless, they are not the only necessities. Only the atheistic behaviourist holds to this idea now. Even they are changing their minds because of intensive studies that have shown that sometimes people who have had the same environmental conditions will react to life in opposite ways. One may turn into a saint, while another may become a criminal. The differences are accounted for in the Wisdom Teachings by the age and strength of the soul. Still we must have a conscience in relation to the social structure. We must all feel a responsibility for all of life and realize the need for a society that promotes the brotherhood of man. We are our brother's keepers.

Residing in subconsciousness we all have a history of all living creatures since the beginning of manifestation. We are part of the All. We all have this knowledge somewhere deep within our scroll, and we share it with everyone else. Our subconsciousness holds this universal memory, or akashic memory. When we reach a point where we can vibrate on the proper level, we will be able to recall much of this record. Sometimes we touch it in spots. Actually we recall these subconscious memories as we need them. Always there is a deeper part of us in touch with this knowledge, or we wouldn't have been able to grow our bodies. Each and every one of us is part of the stream of evolution symbolized by the robe of the High Priestess. It is this stream of evolution that pushes toward reproduction, as well as toward the forming of habit patterns of every description. Habit patterns are most necessary. They are only adverse when we outwear their need and yet want to hang on to them. Along with this cosmic knowledge, we hold in our subconsciousness the entire history of our individual march in the river of life that has taken us to the level of individualization which we have achieved up to this point.

The universal memory is like an ocean and the individual memory is like a river within the ocean. It is our personal river, and yet it keeps mingling with the water of the ocean. The rivers within the ocean take on from the ocean all the chemistry therein. The rivers in the ocean are the

basis of the streams and currents that hold to a certain course. That is the reason that some places in the ocean are warm where you would expect them to be cold. The Gulf Stream, for example, is a warm water river that feeds a certain area, yet it is part of one ocean. It follows a definite pattern, but all the time it is mixing with the rest of the chemicals in the ocean. In like manner we are all part of the whole as we follow our individualized rivers within the evolutionary ocean.

It is not to our advantage to develop conscious knowledge about the memory patterns that know how to beat the heart, circulate the blood or perform any one of the countless functions necessary to keep our vehicles going. Our part is to bring to conscious knowledge any unnecessary patterns of action that are responsible for restricting us from being able to react to life constructively.

The placing of the Moon in your chart is really one of its most significant aspects. People with a small knowledge of astrology think of themselves as just one thing — their zodiacal Sun sign. Actually, all of us are intermixtures. The moon carries our subconscious personalities. Most human beings actually react more to their moon sign than they do to the Sun. They are reacting to the habit patterns and the memories that lie below consciousness. They are reacting to everything that they have been. This does not mean that we are limited to this kind of subconscious personality. As you well know, we are not limited to anything. The moon travels continuously around the earth and we can decide, as you will see when we get to the signs of the zodiac, to respond at will to any sign we wish in order to accomplish a certain purpose. This is not difficult for us because our work with Tarot has a tremendous effect upon subconsciousness. The language of subconsciousness is the language of symbol. Even when the conscious mind does not understand perfectly, subconsciousness always has its own responses to symbolism. That is why some modern schools of psychology have used dream analysis to help uncover the causes of neurotic problems. I hasten to add that not every dream has meaning. People who think so are being foolish. Yet it has been found that every human being on the face of the earth, whether that person be an Australian aborigine or a nuclear physicist, dreams in the same symbols. This has definitely been discovered by anthropological research. There are certain symbols that are identical, and Carl Jung gave them the name of archetypal images. Curiously enough, this is the word that Qabalah uses for the highest world, the subtlest vibratory level of our being, the beginning of all things prior to their manifest expression.

Bear in mind, then, that the Moon affects us more intensely than any other body except the Sun. The phases of the moon have a very unusual effect upon all living beings. It is very obvious even to modern scientists that during different phases of the moon people who have mental and emotional problems are far more apt to break down than they are at other times. The relationship is very deep. It is our subconsciousness which has made us individualized beings. Not that subconsciousness is really something separate from superconsciousness or from self-consciousness. It is a level, a stratum of total consciousness. It is the part of consciousness, for example, that lets us type without having to be aware of what our fingers are doing. We have made a habit pattern of it. If you are a musician, you play the notes and go through the necessary motions

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without having to think, because you have made a pattern of action. Everything that has become a pattern is part of your subconscious knowledge. This type of pattern is necessary, of course. It is the basis of evolution and need not be disturbed. What we do have to disturb are the patterns that have become outgrown, outmoded and untenable . . . the patterns that were all right for yesterday, but are not all right for today . . . the patterns that keep us frozen without serving any positive purpose. It is our part to become aware of these processes so that we can watch and find out what patterns it is time for us to discard. Then we can look back to last month, last year or two years ago and be amazed at how much our personalities have changed. We will be able to see that our Tarot studies have truly helped us get rid of unnecessary old patterns in our scroll. It is because we are putting conscious attention upon them. We dissolve these patterns and replace them with new constructive ones — the solve and coagula of Alchemy. Every pattern of action or reaction that you have today, conscious attention was put on at some time or another.

In this work, as we awaken and balance the master gland, we bring it to a point where it can reorient our whole glandular system and lead us to the cultivation of patterns of action and reaction that in turn lead to ever higher levels of consciousness and illumination. I am certain that all of you advanced students have seen some changes in your personality during your years of study and aspiration. Little by little we expand our area of superconscious awareness and lessen the areas of illusion and false knowledge that hold us in bondage. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Twenty

MOON (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

The High Priestess in Tarot is related to the 13th Path of the Uniting Intelligence, to which the power of recollection is also related. What we call the 'laws of Nature' are the Life Power's perfect memory of the orderly sequence of its self-expression.

Gimel, גימל, the letter name associated with the High Priestess, is the number 73. This is also the number of Chokmah, חכמה. She is thus said to represent the lesser Chokmah, or the feminine aspect of Cosmic Wisdom. She stands for the reflection of all that the One Self is, its perfect self-recollection and self-knowledge. The word Tora on the scroll can be re-arranged to spell Rota, wheel, intimating that the basic law is the Law of Rotation. This Law of Rotation is more specifically symbolized in Key No. 10. Key 10 corresponds to Jupiter and, as we mentioned in our study of that planet, there is a close relationship between Jupiter and the Moon. This is evident in astrology where Cancer, ruled by the Moon, is the place of the exaltation of Jupiter.

Yesod, as the sphere of the activity of the Moon, is called basis or foundation. It is the seat of Nephesh, נפש, the vital or animal soul, and of the automatic consciousness. In our use of the automatic consciousness we must remember that it's the way we habitually see our environment and our relationship with others that constitutes the patterns that eventually become manifest. In our periods of meditation we lift this force up to the higher centers in order to impress it with the unity of life and with the intellectual knowledge that no one does anything of or by himself. This knowledge gradually becomes habitual, changing the cellular consciousness to a point where we can eventually participate in Cosmic Consciousness.

Remember, the Moon, in astrology, carries all the powers you have learned to associate with the High Priestess in Tarot. The calm figure of the High Priestess is seated between the pillars Jakin and Boaz in the gateway of the Temple. The fundamental power of subconsciousness is the power to record and store impressions. The scroll on her lap not only represents personal memory, but also the greater memory of nature. Every human being is part of the whole of nature, and thus through subconsciousness has access to the great storehouse of cosmic memory.

The astrological influence of the Moon is said to be cold, reflective and receptive. Those in whom the Moon vibration is particularly strong, as for instance if it is either the ruler of your Sun sign or of your ascendant, are often somewhat changeable, but they need not become unstable on that account. Their ability to be happy in varying conditions and their love of novelty can be turned to good account. A dominant Moon influence makes the mind flexible and adaptable and thus enables those in whom it is strong to adjust themselves easily to new situations. It is also through the power of the Moon that we can establish

harmonious relationships with other people, and thus it finds expression in happy and peaceful home conditions. The Moon vibration is always strongly operative in our dealings with the public. Thus, in national horoscopes, the influence of the Moon is associated with the public mind and with affairs of interest to the masses of the population.

As we use our Technique for bringing about the highest and most positive manifestation of this subconscious force, we will be improving our ability to adapt and adjust to varying situations. Our Technique will also help strengthen the retentiveness of memory and will automatically improve our powers of recollection. The Moon vibration calls forth from subconscious levels the mood of calm, balanced adjustment.

When the Moon is strong and in good aspect in a horoscope, it gives the ability to become consciously aware of the reflective powers of subconsciousness. The subconscious mind, or the Moon vibration, is the medium whereby one becomes aware of superconscious levels of being. It acts as a mirror for the superconscious and reflects the images received to the conscious mind. The impressions so received are called intuitions. When the Moon in your chart is well aspected you will find that it is the best possible time to develop the intuitive faculty. This connection with intuition is shown by the fact that the Moon is exalted in Taurus, the sign that we have learned to associate with intuition.

As we all know, the moon has much to do with all physical cycles, particularly that of conception and birth. Hence it represents everything which is known through the five senses and our reactions to such things. It follows, therefore, that the moon indicates the instinctive response of the personality to its environment. The danger always present when Luna is emphasized is that one will become too involved in surface appearances.

During an adverse aspect to the Moon, the tendency is to forget that the world exists (as far as we are concerned) and to turn inward, focusing so completely on our own subjective responses to the outer appearances of our environment that we lose contact with reality and see things in a way similar to that of the dream state. While this may be absorbing and make us feel deeply, it should not be permitted to cloud the mirror of truth. Think of yourself as possessing a mirror which you may place in such a way that it will reflect a scene of confusion close to you, or, if tilted to another angle of the total view, will show only the peace and glory of the stars overhead.

The beneficent aspects to the Moon hold an equally strong challenge. Possibly one harder to meet, inasmuch as the world turns a smiling face to us and encourages us to believe in the permanence of its gifts. There is no experience that is permanent. The essence of experience is what has most value to the Real Self. Extract this essence, record it, and discard the waste as you would blow chaff from wheat.

The composition of the High Priestess is a perfect representation of the ideal attitude to assume during strong lunar aspects. You will notice the calm of the figure as she sits in the doorway of the Temple. She has her scroll of memory in her lap. She may unroll it at any time

and find the necessary guidance for any immediate problem by looking to the essence of her own past and that of the race which is also inscribed there. A most important point to note is the diminishing clarity of the writing on the scroll. Here is a hint that we must clearly register our experiences in memory in order that we may refer back to them instead of having to go back through them again and again, incessantly living through similar mistakes in order to learn lessons.

As we have seen before, the pituitary body in the brain is the principal center where the Moon vibration enters the body. This organ is protected by a little "skull within a skull", known as the sella turcica, or Turkish saddle. The pituitary body itself is about the size of a pea. Endocrinologists have found that all bodily rhythms are regulated by this organ, including the bony growth of the skeleton, the respiratory rate, the waking and sleeping rhythm, and the menstrual cycle.

The phenomena of telepathy is connected with this center also. Besides regulating bodily rhythms, the vibration through this center is the connective activity which links together the tiny cells from which the body is built. Every cell is in its way a living entity, a distinct personality. The Moon vibration is the associative, coordinating influence which combines the trillions of cell lives into an organic whole.

The Moon vibration is especially active in the Cancer area of the body—in the stomach, mammary glands of women, esophagus, thoracic duct, the upper lobes of the liver, the lower lobes of the lung, and the diaphragm. The Moon, being exalted in Taurus, also influences the Taurus area of the body. This includes the neck, palate, larynx, tonsils, lower jaw, ears, atlas and cervical vertebrae, the carotid artery, and the jugular vein.

When the Moon vibration is strong and well aspected it makes for the healthy function of all the bodily organs mentioned above. Persons ruled by the Moon or in whom the Moon is strongly influential are usually sensitive, emotional, psychic and possessed of strong rhythmic sense. Thus they often like music, dancing and poetry. As a rule they have unusually retentive memories.

When the Moon vibration is repressed, or unfortunately aspected, the organs mentioned above do not function well and diseases affecting them result. This causes a lack of coordination throughout the community of cell lives, and this, among other things, is a condition predisposing to cancer and other abnormal growths. Deficiency in the Moon vibration results also in poor memory, general insensibility, want of rhythm, and harsh temper.

An overstrong or overemphasized lunar influence makes people too sensitive. They are uncertain and likely to depend too much on others for their opinions and decisions. These people are like those who are afraid to leave the parental roof. They are given to idle visions and often are subject to digestive disturbances. They sometimes dissolve into tears at the slightest rebuff.

The chakra corresponding to the Moon is the Ajna Chakra, located

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between the eyebrows. The corresponding metal is silver. The color is blue and the note is B-flat.

This vibration has a lot to do with astral awareness and anything pertaining to the psychic levels of life. The trouble is that on the psychic levels too many people get all wrapped up in their visions and voices. You might call much of this negative enchantment. We can be enchanted away from the real job at hand. As I pointed out before, the real job at hand is not only to prepare ourselves for the New Age, but to do everything possible within our thinking/feeling natures to bring our personalities to that level of response to life that will bring in — like a magnetic center — the higher levels of consciousness. Just as the Moon has a gravitational pull on the tides, we too have a gravitational pull on everything and everybody. We must begin living our realization of unity to the best of our ability. Not that we are going to be perfect at it. We are not expected to be. The fact that we are making an effort towards this as our goal is the point. I do know that in the division of humanity that is now taking place, this is the primary factor. We must feel a responsibility for the rest of humanity, as well as for all living creatures. I know too well that we cannot escape certain of the pains that come with the realization of the unity of life. When we feel at one with life, we share the world pain. At the same time, this unity is the channel for awakening in us our responses to the higher levels of consciousness that bring us the ecstasies and glories of livingness. Remember, then, that when you think anything, you are not just thinking it alone. When you feel anything, you are not feeling it alone. We are all One.

TECHNIQUE

In the Technique that follows we will be perfecting our subconscious personalities. We will be concentrating on bringing to conscious awareness the patterns of action and response, hidden deep in the scroll, that need dissolution. We will then direct the forces so released to the construction of patterns more in harmony with our intellectual awareness of the unity of all of life.

Start by going through the exercises for the preceding planetary centers — Saturn, Sun, Mars, Jupiter and Venus. Now look at Key No. 2, the High Priestess, and the blue color card. Intone I-A-O (Eee-Ah-Oh) to G-sharp three times and feel the blue vibration, connected with the Moon, permeating your body and your aura.

Feel yourself as one with the High Priestess. The crown on your head is symbolizing rhythm and repetition. . . the waxing and waning of the moon. . . the return of the seasons. . . the bodily rhythms. This principle is the basis of the patterns inherent in our subconscious nature; the basis for all manifest forms and all recurring actions. Notice the veil between the two pillars with its analogy to reciprocity. The male palms are the green of the Empress. The female pomegranates are the red of the Emperor. They symbolize the balancing of opposite forces. Through this balance do we achieve our consciousness of the unity of life. Through the Moon center do we transmit this awareness to the cellular consciousness.

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Notice the fluidity of your robe as it streams down your lap. This is the astral mental substance that is formed in imagery. As it streams out of the picture it waters the gardens of the Empress and of the Magician. Become aware of its purity and clearness. The virginal substance that cannot be defiled, taking on forms and then returning to its pristine state. As you sit between the pillars of Jakin and Boaz, feel your unity with all of life. Remember that the High Priestess connects the Crown with the Son. She is the lesser Chokmah uniting us, through wisdom, with the Highest.

AFFIRMATION

The subconscious level of awareness connects me with the Highest. Like a mirror she reflects the Crown when I have cleared her of her patterns of error and false knowledge. By uniting the conflicts of my soul and transmitting to the cellular consciousness below my knowledge that "I do nothing of myself", do I clear the mirror so that it reflects back to my conscious mind the sure knowledge of my Kingship and of my Royal Birth. The voice of the Higher Wisdom speaks continuously, but only those who are quiet and at peace can hear above the clamor of manifest existence. I shall be still and know. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Twenty-one

MERCURY (1)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Tarot Key No. 1, The Magician, relates in terms of our interior solar system to the Mercury center, attributed to the pineal gland. In both Eastern and Western occult systems, the pineal gland is the organ that is said to require art in order to complete its function. For many years scientists have considered the pineal gland to be a residual organ similar to the appendix in its lack of necessity to the body. Lately, however, several scientists have expressed their uncertainty about the non-usefulness of this organ. They have become more interested in it because they have come to realize that it is quite directly connected to the forebrain, and it is the forebrain which makes us human and distinguishes us from the lower animals. Incidentally, the buttocks are also a human characteristic. They have helped us to be upright creatures. They represent the development of the tail into the muscular system that becomes the buttocks. However, although we still do not have agreement on the usefulness of the pineal gland among our scientific minds, at least they are beginning to search for functions for this organ.

In Western occultism, especially Alchemy (which you studied in our course THE GREAT WORK), it is the Stone which man must confect in order to attain to perfection. The Stone is Aben (ABN) the union of Father and Son, Chokmah and Tiphareth. Jesus often said, "My Father and I are One." Actually, "My Father and I are in union" is a more accurate translation. The Stone is said to be finished when the sand in the brain becomes crystallized into a cube. That is another reason for the prominence of cube symbolism in the Tarot. The pineal gland does have what we can call sand. As we work with the vibratory powers represented by the planets and with the various techniques that take us from stage to stage of our growth, the brain sand begins to adhere. It has been found that certain musical notes cause grains of sand to take various patterns. Similarly, the work that we are doing, the spiritual work, has its physiological effects. We are in the process of developing an instrument — our body — that can register vibratory rates capable of tuning into the higher consciousness. Another analogy would be the crystal sets — the first radios. Certain crystals, or shapes of crystals, were used in order to bring in radio waves. The pineal gland, when it is finished, functions in a similar way.

Self-consciousness is the state of consciousness assigned to Mercury and Key No. 1. Its basic function is to give attention or concentration. However, you have to have an emotional feeling towards the object of your concentration or your attention will not remain with it. As I have often mentioned to our classes, no one ever has any problem concentrating when he is in love. We also never have any problem concentrating when we are worried. No one has to teach us how to concentrate on problems or fears. You automatically get your attention fastened upon them. So we don't really have to learn how to concentrate, as you can see. What we have to do is to better understand our desire nature and learn to really hold that which is important to us. We decide on a goal and then point our

concentration power in a direction which is consistent with that desire. In this way our fears and doubts will not be forever destroying the images we wish manifested. The whole secret of cosmic experience, of illumination, is really involved here. The Mercury center is the vibratory center for the greatest magic that there is. The magic of awareness. Awareness is self-consciousness. The ability to be aware is the ability to concentrate. It is a focusing down of our attention that eventually expands our knowledge.

Now in Eastern occultism is it quite well known that concentration is the first essential. However, the problem here is that usually the techniques given in Eastern books are not so designed as to hold the attention of the Western mind. In my early years I tried to utilize these methods, but found it difficult to keep my mind from wandering off. It wasn't that I lacked the ability to concentrate, because even as a small child I had no trouble in this area as long as I was interested. In a word, the Eastern techniques bored me. This is true of all of us. The moment we are bored our minds begin to wander. Though I didn't realize it at the time, I certainly did realize it later. Western occultism teaches that the whole secret of concentration is in desire, whether that desire be for illumination and cosmic consciousness, a loved one, or some physical object. The attention goes where the heart is. If the heart is filled with fear, the attention will dream up all kinds of terrors. When love is filling our hearts, the attention will be fastened on the object of our love.

The human being who aspires must learn to recognize how he often focuses his attention in negative areas, and he must learn to draw away from these undesirable images to something that is important to him. Just trying to pull it away without a positive substitute won't work. You have probably all found this to be true in the past. It is similar to the determined attempt to go on a diet. From then on you find yourself eating more and more if you put too much attention on how difficult it is. So long as something is important to us, we are going to be able to bring it into manifestation, providing we learn how to recognize and immediately switch the power from its negative expression of doubts and fears into positive imagery. The point is that we cannot concentrate properly on ideas that are too abstract. They simply will not hold our attention. That is one of the reasons why in all our lessons we are insistent that you must work with your actual desires. This is the only way you are going to care enough to be able to persist in concentration.

Mercury, then, like Saturn, is involved with concentration. However, with Mercury we are dealing with this principle in relation to its self-conscious usage. In its perfection, this is the Stone of the Wise. Until the brain sand in the pineal gland crystallizes through proper meditation and aspiration, we do not experience the full flower of consciousness, the full flower of Reality.

The Hebrew letter assigned to Mercury is Beth, the house. This is associated with the Temple. In Greek the word temple is adytum. As you probably know, adytum symbolizes for us the Holy Temple within, the Holy of Holies, the Sanctum Sanctorum. We are all Builders of the Adytum. Remember, Jesus was a carpenter. We are building this Holy Temple within. Actually, this building has to do with the completion of the function

of the pineal gland. As we evolve, we become more and more conscious. We are working to consciously bring about the awareness of superconscious states. Until we acquire awareness, our body is not really the completed Temple in and through which the real sacred work of God takes place. At this point in our evolution it is an unfinished temple; it is in the process of building. Tarot Key No. 1 expresses this undertaking symbolically. As we work to bring superconsciousness into consciousness, we are perfecting the Temple, we are making it the receiving station for vibratory levels not yet available to us.

Notice the position of the Magician's right hand in which he holds a wand. He is self-consciousness, the power of attention. The wand symbolizes his ability to bring superconscious states down from above. He is the mediator. He is transmitting them to the subconscious flower garden below. The roses are desire; the lilies knowledge. These are the flowers being grown and cultivated by subconsciousness. All knowledge we receive goes into the subconscious storehouse. What we call nature is really the knowledge of the Universal Life. Remember, behind self-consciousness is the principle of attention. The path of Key 1 on the Tree of Life joins Kether to Binah, where it symbolizes this principle before any forms are built. The Universal mind had to put attention on any manifest forms, even though the creatures below man are not self-conscious as man is self-conscious. In a sense all of nature was once superconscious, then self-conscious, or attended to, and then became subconscious knowledge. Below the level of man, the Life power still acts directly upon the animal soul, so that in the creatures below man the instincts of learned responses are built directly without any "I" consciousness as we experience it. All this was accomplished through experience, through bringing into manifestation forms that had been imaged. For example in terms of man, take your ability to walk. At one time you used conscious attention. You used attention to balance yourself, even though you have probably forgotten. There was a time when you concentrated on each step until it became a habit pattern. Then you were able to run and jump and climb. You had given self-conscious attention to something which finally became subconscious ability. Now you do not have to think about it. That released your self-conscious attention so that it could go on attending to other experiences and acquiring more knowledge.

Imagine what amazing cycles of learning we have gone through in order to do the extraordinary things we had to learn in our evolutionary march toward the human vehicle which is able to be self-consciously aware of being aware. Now we are beginning to participate in our own evolution. This is what each and every one of us have learned to do up to this point. The Tree of Life expresses this beautifully. The Three Veils of the Absolute circumscribe certain areas because there are some things we are not yet capable of thinking about on intellectual levels. It is a waste of time, energy and effort to try to comprehend something that cannot be handled by the intellect. There are some truths that none of us can know while functioning in the human vehicle; however, the veil of potential comprehension is drawn at different places for different people. For example, consider the Australian aborigines. What is now self-conscious knowledge to us would be superconscious knowledge to them, because they have not gone through the training and experience necessary for comprehension. Therefore they are not capable of handling certain concepts and ideas that

are everyday knowledge to us. In like manner a Master of Wisdom experiences as self-conscious knowledge levels of awareness that we consider superconscious. We have graduating scales. You cannot draw a line and say: "This is self-conscious, this is subconscious and this is superconscious." We are all functioning from different awareness levels. Among aspirants there are subtle differences, and our awareness level will vary in different areas of understanding. Our work with Tarot is helping us to draw the veil further back.

Mercury is our power to be aware of this instant in time, the power in and through which we grow. For a moment think of self-consciousness as a traveling point of light. Think of the Universal Self, or God, as being a sphere and your point of light as traveling around this sphere. That point is your power of attention, of self-awareness. As you proceed along the sphere you gather experience in a special order, similar to the embryonic order. We proceed from whatever point we have achieved in our evolutionary level. The embryo of a chicken comes out at the chicken level, the embryo of a mouse comes out on the mouse level, etc. There it is born into its next reincarnational experience. Thus your self-conscious center of attention has traveled around this sphere of selfhood. Let us expand this analogy. Suppose God said to Himself, "I'm going to set up an area to develop self-conscious units of Myself and expand my own Self-experience." God then takes a little point of his attention, which would correlate with the "Beginning of the Whirlings". Within that sphere of his attention is a point that is you. As the point travels, it becomes a ray. Think of that point, which is you, as a continuous motion without anything stopping it. That motion makes a ray and everything is relatively said to be curved. This curving ray of light symbolizes your self-conscious being. You are a portion of Divinity that has already been through much experience. This self-experience has brought you to your present point of awareness. The area of the sphere that you have not yet experienced is still superconsciousness to you. That which you have been through is subconscious to you. The present point is your self-consciousness, which is in continuous motion, and motion is really the livingness of the Life-power. It is often said that the motion of the mind must be stilled in order to experience the higher aspects of being. This can only occur, however, when we have achieved a state of evolution where we are aware of being aspects of Diety, and beginning to realize that we are One with the Life-power.

The pair of opposites, Life and Death, are attributed to Mercury and Key No. 1. It is the destiny of living centers of life to develop such a complete degree of self awareness that all that is superconscious to them now, becomes self-conscious in time. Eventually it becomes subconscious, which means it has become registered knowledge in the automatic consciousness. In a sense all that we have been, all that we have done, and also all that we have not as yet lived through, are superconsciousness in essence. Some knowledge or awareness may be still in our future in terms of awareness, yet it already exists in the Higher Self or the Higher Substance. Again, in regard to the attribution of Life and Death to Mercury, the power of attention is what gives you the ability to experience the magic of livingness. To the degree that you are aware on the self-conscious level, to that degree are you really alive. This is

not difficult to see. For instance, if you are walking down the street or driving your car and your attention is turned inward, you are not seeing what is around you. You are therefore dead to your environment, because your attention is withdrawn to the abstract world of ideas, which has its own life, of course, but nevertheless there is an unawareness of that which is going on around you. Most of the time we fail to see what is going on around us. We are dead to it. Only that to which we give attention is alive for us. That is why it becomes so important to learn how to direct the attention to images which will produce what we want. The whole secret of life is in the intensity of attention as Key No. 1 symbolizes. We must learn to say, and feel: "Superconscious, the Divine, sees through me, touches through me, works through me, lives through me." As we do this we bring down more and more of the higher realms of consciousness from "that which is above" into our self-conscious awareness, and this, in turn, initiates new subconscious responses.

Self-consciousness, as we have learned from our Tarot lessons, is inductive in its reasoning. It is not this phase of consciousness that does the actual creating. It is superconsciousness that creates. As I pointed out before, self-consciousness is like a line that does not exist . . . a dot that is traveling along a line . . . a point between an eternal past and an equally eternal future. It is our attention that is self-conscious. We become aware of images streaming down from above. All higher creativeness, that is, all creations that are not merely reflections from subconsciousness, come from higher levels of awareness. Every real artist or musician has contact with superconsciousness in the area of his interest. It doesn't matter how undeveloped his personality may be in other ways. In the area of his artistry he is contacting superconsciousness. There is a sense in which our evolutionary level is determined by the degree of emotion we are able to experience. Since awareness is the ability to focus and hold to a steady attentiveness, it must then be rooted in emotion, desire, love, interest, wonder. These are what hold our attention. Remember, then, it is intensity that gives our self-consciousness its power to be aware. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Twenty-two

MERCURY (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Mercury is the planet that represents your mind. In mythology, as well as in astrology, it symbolizes the vehicle for the expression of forces. This Mercurial vibration manifests through the higher brain, or cerebrum. Of the brain centers through which it expresses, the most important, as we have seen in Lesson 21, is the pineal gland or conarium. This is a reddish-white cone-shaped organ near the center of the brain. It contains a yellow, granular substance commonly called 'brain sand'. The work we are doing is aimed at completing its function so as to form a crystalline body. This is what is known in Alchemy as the Philosopher's Stone. This organ is connected with the Mercury vibration itself.

Mercury rules Gemini, which in bodily areas includes the shoulders, arms, hands and lungs. Therefore the Mercury vibration affects this bodily area directly. Most work is performed by the hands, so civilization is actually the handiwork of man. It is through the lungs that we absorb and utilize the subtle forces necessary to complete the function of the pineal gland. Therefore deep rhythmic breathing is a requisite on the path to Illumination. Be sure that you practice it as outlined in earlier lessons.

Key No. 6 of Tarot refers to Gemini and depicts this process symbolically. The Great Work, as you have learned, is "the operation of the Sun and Moon performed by the aid of Mercury". The outcome of this operation is the equilibration of the powers known as the alchemical Man and Woman. Key No. 6 represents this equilibration of the conscious and subconscious minds. It is also related to the balance between the two aspects of Prana known to yogis as Surya and Rayi, the solar and lunar currents of the serpent power. As symbols of this equilibration the man in Key No. 6 represents the solar current, the woman the lunar. The planet Mercury is symbolized by the angel who is Raphael, archangel of air.

Mercury also rules and is exalted in Virgo. The upper intestine is included in the area governed by Virgo. Here occurs a most important feature of the true alchemical operation. Through the small intestine passes chyle, a milky, oily fluid resulting from the digestive processes carried on in the stomach. From this chyle, the lacteals abstract the various materials required for maintaining body structure. These materials are passed by the lacteals into the bloodstream, and as the latter circulates, the various organs select from it what they require. Remember the area where this assimilative process takes place is under the rulership of Mercury. That means that by gaining conscious control, this process can be intensified.

Strong and well-aspected Mercury stimulates the higher functions of the brain and gives mental alertness, discrimination and emotional balance. Overemphasized, it tends to indecision and a substitution of thinking and talking for action. If its balancing influence is ill-aspected or blocked, it can lead to nervous overactivity on the one hand or deep mental depression on the other, depending on the other planets involved.

In Yogi philosophy the Mercury vibration correlates with the 'thousand petaled' Sahasrara Chakra. This center is not in the physical body, but in the subtle etheric astral vehicle at a distance of some eighteen inches above the head. Its influence, however, corresponds to the higher functions of the brain and is focused in the pineal gland.

The Intelligence of Transparency is attributed to Key No. 1 and Mercury in the 32 PATHS OF WISDOM. Self-consciousness effects transformations because something works through it. It does nothing of itself. We concentrate units of power toward some selected area of our environment. Mentally, this is keen perception and alert awareness of events. This develops the ability to see through superficial appearances into the inner realities veiled by these appearances. The energy which self-consciousness uses in controlling and arranging these materials is brought down from above, as symbolized by the Magician's right hand in Key No. 1. His left hand is a symbol of the habit mind. The pointing finger represents habitual concentration which results from long, persistent practice. The materials utilized by self-consciousness are derived from below. The energy used in controlling and arranging these materials is brought down from above. The implements on the Magician's table symbolize the materials. The wand is will, the cup is memory and imagination, the sword is action, and the coin represents form. Every magical transformation we are able to bring about results from varying manifestations of will, imagination, action and physical embodiment. The garden, as you have learned, is the subconscious field of cultivation. All that surrounds us is the manifestation of subconscious forces. The objective mind, the vehicle for the expression of the Mercury vibration, can control these subconscious forces directly and thus modify and adapt the rhythms of vibration operating at subconscious levels. It is man, and man only, who can achieve the full flower of self-consciousness. This attainment cannot be accomplished by the subhuman and subconscious levels of being. "Nature unaided always fails." The human personal factor is required in order to bring about the perfection of the powers which are only partly expressed in the kingdom of nature below man.

Self-consciousness constitutes our awareness of environment. This is really awareness of mental impressions we receive from the world through sensation. The activities of environment are manifestations of various powers of subconsciousness. Your intelligent awareness of these manifestations is a prerequisite of gaining control over them. Self-consciousness can be cultivated. By correct measurement of sense experiences man is able to rearrange the forces composing his mental, emotional and physical existence.

Your will, insofar as it is will and not a reflection from subconscious automatic responses, is a specialization of the One Will. To know this is to be certain that your true will is irresistible. This establishes confidence in the happy outcome of all your undertakings. This enables us to live in the Now instead of being timebound, relating ourselves either to the past or to the future. By acts of attention the etheric vibration of the objects around us are concentrated on a brain center. These vibrations have a tendency to organize that center in accordance with the intrinsic nature of the thing to which one attends. Thus the brain center is attuned to the idea which is the inner reality of the thing under observation.

This attunement is expressed as conscious perception of its inner reality. Then one sees through the form of the thing into its essential nature. Resolve to see into life instead of merely looking at it. You will find the world transforming itself before your eyes. This is a fundamental secret of magic. Use the Magician, symbolizing the balancing, stimulating Mercury vibration, to sharpen your powers of attention and observation. We want to learn to vibrate mentally to the keynote of the sages. Once we start on the right course, the body cells which hold this record of past wise interpretations of experience are awakened into activity and we begin to find our minds picking up unexpected bits of wisdom. Superficial observation and hasty generalization lead to errors that cause our bondage to appearances. Profound observation and accurate inductive reasoning lead to correct generalizations which work through subconsciousness to effect an affinity to wise interpretations of experience in the subconscious storehouse. That is why in Key 15 the symbol for Mercury is on the Devil's belly. It is a misuse of our self-conscious powers that attunes us to erroneous interpretations of environment and experience, causing all our bondage and misery.

On the Tree of Life, Hod is the sphere of the activity of Mercury. It is called the Perfect Intelligence (שכל שלם, Saykel Shalom). The adjective shalom means complete, finished whole. This Perfect Intelligence is called the "dwelling place of the Primordial" or the "treasure of the Primordial" (הכונת הקדמית, tekunath ha-qadmuth). The noun tekunath is from a root meaning "to arrange, to measure". This is another indication of the cultural or completing power of human self-consciousness. Without the personal factor of human intellectual activity the latent potencies of the Life-power cannot be completed. The path which sets the eighth sephirah, sphere of Mercury, into activity is that of the letter Mem, through which the 'will power' flows into Hod from Geburah. The path of the Hanged Man symbolizes the consciousness, "I do nothing of myself". Thus the eighth sephirah is really man's growing awareness of the essential perfection of the cosmic order. The power at work in it, as we have seen since it is the sphere of Mercury, is the power of concentration operating in the field of man's self-conscious awareness.

Concentration is said to be a preliminary requisite to the art of meditation. This art has to do with mind control and practices which have for their object the restraint of the flow of the stream of mind-stuff (which mind-stuff is the 'water' of Mem). This mental substance, held in check by practices of concentration and meditation, becomes very still and very intense. The mind stuff is in continual vibration and every practice which aims to control and direct it utilizes the Law of Rhythm to bring this vibration under man's intelligent self direction. Concentration is the restraint of the mind-stuff from taking various forms. Samadhi refers to complete suspension of all consciousness of personally originated activity. Absolute consciousness is the support of personal consciousness. When the activities of personal consciousness are suspended, when the vibrations of the mind-stuff are stilled, the Absolute consciousness rays forth its beams and the person experiences illumination. This illumination is the realization of one's innermost identity with the One Reality. By this realization one may become so completely aware of the One Self that all sense of separateness is extinguished during this trance-like state. There is, during this experience, no vestige of personal consciousness. Practice

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enables us to slow down the modifications of the mind-stuff until they come to a standstill. This is made easier if we devote ourselves daily to accustoming our brains to expressing the thought that every personal action is some aspect of the Life-power's cosmic activity. This 'perfect realization of the Limitless Light' is represented by Hod. Use of Key 1 and the Mercury vibration in our technique will lead us toward this goal of control over the fluctuations of the mind. We should understand that personal intellect is the expression and temporal manifestation of the eternal creative powers of the Divine Soul in Binah. Hod is at the base of the pillar from which the powers of Binah flow down. It is through human intellection that the creative impulses streaming down the Pillar of Severity from Binah are specialized and brought to bear on the actual problems of man's daily existence.

The outcome of the alchemical process, in like manner, leads to the consciousness of the unity of all. This consciousness develops into a genuine love for all humanity and all God's creatures. It is rooted in the perception of the fact of human brotherhood. The alchemical process that leads to this state of consciousness requires analysis or separation in the beginning. This analysis is an act of mind. It is the work of alchemical Mercury and is the indispensable preliminary to the synthesis which makes possible the manifestation of the New Man.

In our change in the conception of our relationship to our fellow man and to our environment, there is no essential change in the things themselves. Our expanded awareness releases knowledge that gives us a command over the forms of the physical plane that seem like miracles to others. That is why Key 1, assigned to Mercury, is called The Magician. It is this intellectual comprehension of the way the One Power works in nature that gives us our power to control circumstances. It is not that mind is made to dominate matter. Rather is it a comprehension of the orderly process by which form is manifested everywhere in the universe. It needs to be recognized and followed.

The implements of the Magician's table symbolize the physical materials that we must rightly understand and use. However, we must understand and utilize their grosser forms before we can begin using their more subtle manifestations. Our first concern, then, should be with a proper understanding and use of food (pentacles), air (swords), water (cups) and light (wands). All these are forms of the One Thing. Our job is to learn to separate the subtle, ethereal forms of the Life-essence from the gross forms in which nature presents them to us. Remember, your body is the Athanor or furnace of the Alchemical process. Use your intellectual self-consciousness, the Mercury vibration, to discriminate 'suavely and with great ingenuity'. Not in haste. Your every thought and action rests on the secure foundation of Eternal Being. You shall inevitably attain to its perfection.

TECHNIQUE

As before, go through the techniques for the previous centers first. Now place Key No. 1 before you, intone Ee-Ah-Oh to the tone E and image your body and your aura as filled with a vivid, vibrating yellow. Mentally back yourself into Key 1 and assume the position of the Magician. Your right hand is bringing down power from superconscious levels. Your cons-

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cious mind is the mediator. You are cultivating your garden of subconscious wisdom and desire, cultivating it with power drawn from above, filling your consciousness with light. As you assume the position of mediator you feel that you do nothing of yourself. Personality is the vehicle for the Higher Self. The more intensely you can feel this, the more power you will be channeling.

AFFIRMATION

"I do nothing of myself; the Father within me doeth the works."
I am a channel of expression for superconscious powers drawn from above.
My life is becoming ever more attuned to the ebb and flow of universal forces and thus ever closer to my heart's desire. ##

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Lesson Twenty-three

(THE HIGHER OCTAVE PLANETS) — URANUS

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Tarot Key No. 0, the Fool, relates to the higher octave planet, Uranus. When Uranus was discovered in the heavens, exoterically, a study was made of the type of force involved and how this force affected the consciousness of man. It was decided by modern exoteric astrologers that it correlated most closely with the zodiacal sign Aquarius and was therefore established as its ruler. Uranus deals with revolution and the knocking out of the old to make way for the new. As we discussed the Aquarian Age in an earlier lesson, you can see why Uranus is correctly attributed to Aquarius. However, while in modern exoteric astrology the Saturn rulership was replaced by Uranus, in our Tradition Saturn is considered as the co-ruler with Uranus in Aquarius. In Qabalistic teachings the attributions of the seven planets that relate to the basic centers have always been kept intact. In ancient Astrology Saturn was considered to be the ruler of both Aquarius and Capricorn.

Now in the Western Mysteries, as we have pointed out, the discovery of a new planet is definitely understood to mean that the consciousness of humanity has actually expanded to be receptive to that particular force. In other words, it is the next stage of growth. Until Uranus was discovered in the heavens, only the very, very few (those who were not part of this planetary life wave) were able to respond to the kind of consciousness that we can call Tarot Key 0, the Fool, or the Uranian consciousness. Those of this planetary life wave were not able to respond to it at all. They had not yet grown the crystals in their organism or the inner chemistry which could receive this kind of impact. Actually, the most important work we have is to develop our organism and change the chemistry of our bodies so that they can be receptive to the more subtle energies. Until recently, the higher teachings have not been available to the broad spectrum of our population because the Hierarchy knew that, as a whole, they had not yet developed the ability to handle such concepts or to see their importance. This does not mean that anything has been deliberately withheld. You do not take a child in kindergarten and try to teach him higher calculus before teaching him fundamental math. The same goes with any of the higher teachings, whether it be in philosophy, psychology or physics. The giving out of certain ideas has to correlate with the ability and the capacity of the people to receive, understand and utilize them.

In terms of the co-rulership of Saturn and Uranus in Aquarius, Saturn is the discipline, while Uranus is the forward-moving revolutionist. By revolutionist we do not mean communist. The government of the United States was built upon revolution; revolution from the old, revolution from restrictions, revolution from slavery. Revolution means the ability to throw over the old, the prejudiced, the outmoded, as it is related to Uranus. We think of preparing for the New Age. Saturn is that part of our nature which gives us the ability to put on the brakes; and remember, the thing that makes us human is this ability to inhibit ourselves. We do this in order to conserve energy for further movement, for further evolution and the next stage of our development. Therefore Saturn and Uranus, in the Mystery

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Training Tradition, are definitely considered to be co-rulers of Aquarius. We do not throw out Saturn because Uranus has been discovered in the heavens. Humanity is now beginning to reach a stage in the life wave of this planet which enables its members to start thinking and feeling and expressing the idealism of the forward movement of true democracy, the true unity of life. This is what the Aquarian Age is to bring.

However, we also must note that Uranus is said to be the higher octave of Mercury. The real astrology can never be completely understood without knowing the background of its esoteric aspects, hidden in Tarot, Qabalah and Alchemy. There is a sense in which the two rulers of Aquarius give ability to our self-conscious mind, Mercury, to express in a special way. You need the vibratory powers of what we call Saturn and what we call Uranus to make an impact upon Mercury. Your ability to be consciously aware of higher levels of understanding is tied up with a synthesis of forces that results in the concentration of the Saturn power in an organized manner toward superconscious receptivity.

This brings into self-consciousness an awareness of higher levels. It gives us the ability to register higher energies and use them in a practical way. The higher octaves in general open us up to the superconscious levels of the powers which are related to the seven basic planets. They bring us the fullest knowledge of who and what we are and the ability to express this knowledge in a more fulfilling life.

The Fool is a symbol of faith in Divinity. This feeling of security is to know that no matter what happens, there are always higher mountains to climb. The real security is in the ability to feel, even if it seems irrational, that everything which happens, in the final analysis, has been for our ultimate growth. It is the ability to look at all past events and see them as a wondrous gift of God because they have given us the capacity to live more fully today. Now spontaneity, as the Fool also symbolizes, has to do with an inner intuitive knowledge that God lives us. Let's try to think of Uranus, then, as that beginning that has faith in its end. The end is in that beginning. The Fool is looking at the goal. He has achieved a height and he is ready to go on to new heights. He is going to descend into the valley of experience and is pretty gay about it. He doesn't mind the problems, going down the mountain, finding out what is going on below, and climbing up another mountain. He knows where he is going and he has the equipment, that is, the occult powers symbolized by his robe. He has a sense of adventure. The spirit of adventure is a most necessary one to aspirants. If you had not been adventurous as a child you would not have learned. If you had not been adventurous in the past, you would not have had all the heartaches and heartbreaks which taught you what to avoid as well as what to embrace. You couldn't have been at all, really, because Divinity is the spirit of adventure, always working towards greater awareness of self-experience. Your deep intuition knows that the end will be fine because you are an aspect of Divinity. This part of you knows that no matter what occurs, the end is fulfillment, so you can afford to be spontaneous, debonair and gay.

Uranus is said to be the planet of occultism. Its influence is similar to that of Mercury on a higher plane. It has to do with the mental approach to hidden matters, and in a chart it is the significator of all

things sudden and unexpected. This does not mean necessarily adverse, as we shall see. Because Uranus represents superconscious perception and power, the title of Key 0 is most appropriate. Nearly every great inventor has been called a fool, as has every great spiritual leader of humanity. Men and women who dare aspire to a higher level of attainment than that reached by the plodding rank and file are usually looked upon by their contemporaries as being fools or mad men. The visions of the great prophets call forth the jeers of those whom they seek to enlighten. Yet it is to those who have had the courage of their high vision that the world owes all its progress. It does not follow, of course, that every person who fails to interest the world in his pet ideas is a genius. It is just that the vision of the few has made possible the progress of the many. True vision is the expression of the force pictured by the Fool. This is a psychological force coming from above the level of ordinary intellectual thinking. Those in whom Uranus is strong are original, progressive and intuitive. They are the ones whose ideas really reform the world, but they must be sharply distinguished from those meddlers who are always talking about reforms.

When Uranus aspects your Sun or ruling planet beneficently, it will tend to make you original in thought and action. You will be inclined to act according to your own inner promptings, rather than to follow the worn groove which humanity in general travels. Whatever latent genius you possess is likely to come to the fore. During this aspect you are tuned in with the cosmic broadcasting station. This gives you a special opportunity to free yourself from whatever of prejudice and ignorance has held your soul confined. Often conditions that have been binding you cease to exist. It also can bring you more popularity and influence with others. Vision and action are both needed to reap the full benefit possible for you. Remember, though, use of Tarot Key 0, The Fool, in meditation will tend to bring these good qualities of Uranus to you whether it is making an aspect or not. Never forget that it is through the use of Tarot that we attune ourselves in such a way that we start reaping the beneficent aspects of all of the planets. That is one of the big differences between exoteric and esoteric astrology. Having a planet in favorable aspect just gives you a little extra help toward this attunement.

During adverse aspects it often brings a time of testing, through sudden and unexpected set-backs and disappointments. Also it gives a strong tendency to run counter to accepted rules and regulations. Guard against bitterness. Try to realize that this force is to blow you out of uncreative routines of action and thought, so that you will be able to establish a way of being which is more in accordance with your status as a child of God. Whenever you feel out of control use this statement from the PATTERN ON THE TRESTLEBOARD: "All the Power that ever was or will be is here Now." Adverse aspects tend to weigh the soul in balance to discover what of truth and stability is permanent. Those things in your environment and in your mind which do not measure up to principle will be cast out. During such an aspect accept whatever there may be of disruption. Use the cleared ground for building a finer structure. Guard against lack of emotional stability and the tendency to do a bit of tearing down yourself. Thus you will gain perspective. Work from a spiritual point of view and seek guidance. Use the Fool, during this

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period, to help you tune into the beneficent aspects of Uranus. The Fool not only pictures the subtle spiritual force which takes form as inventiveness and originality, it actually brings that force to bear upon your very organism. Remember it is through subconsciousness, which responds to picture symbolism, that the Uranian force enters into one's field of personal expression. Also remember, from your Tarot studies, that the Fool represents the spirit of eternal youthfulness, which has nothing to do with the number of years a person has lived. It will arouse your mind to the realization that there are always new opportunities, always new situations to break the monotony of daily routine, always new fields to conquer, always new heights to scale. Use the technique that follows to release you from the dead level of the ordinary and enable you to rise to the heights of vision and power, whereon you shall realize the full fruition of your goal of understanding and utilization of the higher and subtler forces of the universe.

TECHNIQUE

After having balanced the seven interior stars by quickly going through the previous techniques, place the yellow color card before you with Keys No. 1 and No. 0 side by side. Intone E natural as before and image your aura as filled with a pale yellow color, lighter than that on the color card. Expand the yellow light upward above your head and mentally establish the definite intention of opening your consciousness to the Uranian influence, symbolized by Key 0. Feel yourself as being permeated with a sense of adventure, a readiness for the new, and at the same time a willingness to let go of the old. During all these techniques your breathing should be deep and rhythmic. On the in-breath bring in the new, the adventurous, the guidance from above; on the out-breath let go of the past patterns of erroneous thinking and feeling that have held you in bondage. Guidance from above is open to you and you are ready to receive it.

AFFIRMATION

I enter the valley of experience, adventurously, knowing that the Superconscious level of life guides me in all my ways. I am willing to let go of past patterns of ignorance and become an open channel for the light from above. ##

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Lesson Twenty-four

(THE HIGHER OCTAVE PLANETS) — NEPTUNE

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Neptune is the second of the higher octave planets to be discovered exoterically. It is symbolized in Tarot by the Hanged Man, Tarot Key No. 12. As you know, Key 12, Key 0 and Key 20 are called 'Mother' letters and are attributed to the elements in the following order: Uranus and Key 0 are attributed to Air. Neptune and Key 12 to Water. Pluto and Key 20 to Fire. It would be advisable to review the lessons on these elements in the Great Work Course at this time. Actually, each of these symbolizes an aspect of superconsciousness. Tarot was invented long before these three planets were discovered in the heavens. Their existence and nature were known to occultists, and a place for them was left in the Tarot series.

Astrologers call Neptune the planet of inversion, which accounts for its correlation with Key 12, symbolizing the Law of Reversal in many ways. Mem, the name of the Hebrew letter on Key 12, means 'water' or 'seas', and water reflects everything upside down. The psychological correlation is that of reversal of consciousness — a reversal of the superficial, deluded view of the universe that holds us in bondage. In the state symbolized by the Hanged Man, awareness of the true nature of the universe is perceived. Such an awareness reverses the idea that the things in our environment are so dense and resistant that our mind cannot control them. In this high level of awareness it is seen that things have neither the solidity nor the inertia that they seem to have from the report of our senses. All physical substance, from the lightest gases to the densest metals are perceived as forms of energy built up from infinitesimal, widely separated 'drops' of mind stuff, or 'water', as the alchemists term it.

Neptune is said to rule inspiration, psychometry and mediumship. It is connected also with gases, drugs and alcohol, which produce unconsciousness and hallucinations. As we know from modern experimentations, especially with the widely publicized LSD, these drugs and gases do effect chemical alterations in the blood which make possible imperfect perceptions of higher states of consciousness. However, and in the case of LSD particularly, though some people experience ecstatic states, others report nightmarish horrors. We must be on guard in respect to this type of experimentation. I know you have all read reports of how some drug has temporarily opened the gateway into the higher conscious states. We urge our students not to make experiments in this direction. Though such drugs, when introduced into the bloodstream, do stimulate the action of the brain centers through which the higher modes of consciousness are experienced, the active principle in them which accomplishes this result cannot be separated, by any process known to modern chemistry, from certain other substances which are terribly damaging to the delicate tissues of nerves and brain.

Yet, the fact that narcotic drugs do enable one to experience a measure of superconsciousness points to an important conclusion. He who experiences Cosmic Consciousness does so because of a chemical change in the composition of his blood. This change, as we have pointed out, must

be effected from within the bodily organism, not by an outside agent. Remember, all bodily processes are under the control of subconsciousness which, in turn, is amenable to control by suggestion from our conscious mind. The necessary chemical changes in your organism are being brought about by your regular use of Tarot and the instructions you are receiving. You are giving subconsciousness patterns on which to work that will bring about the required modifications in body chemistry and nerve structure in a perfectly normal and safe way that will ultimately prepare you for the higher states of consciousness symbolized by the Hanged Man.

The twenty-third Path of Wisdom, correlating with the Hanged Man and Neptune, is that of the Stable Intelligence (שֵׁל קַיָּם, saykel qayam). There is a correspondence here between the Fool, attributed to Uranus, and the Hanged Man, attributed to Neptune. Both symbolize the high vision of adeptship resulting from perfect stability of mind. All the higher octave planets, as we have said, symbolize forces connected with superconscious awareness. The Hanged Man is a picture of the suspended personal actions, while the Fool pictures the impersonal vision of reality which results therefrom.

In the Sepher Yetzirah the path of Mem is called "The power of permanence in all the Sephiroth". This is related to the idea of rhythmic, controlled vibration. Samadhi, depicted by Key 12, leads to complete identification with the One Power. This is not a mere intellectual apprehension. It is first-hand knowledge. In Samadhi, the fluctuations of the mind are stabilized. There is an unbroken flow of knowledge in a particular object or idea. The fact that the Hanged Man is suspended from the letter Tav intimates that in order to attune oneself to the Neptunian vibration that ultimately brings Cosmic consciousness, one must utilize the limiting, concentrating power of the Saturn vibration. Control, concentration and limitation of the flow of mental images is the indispensable preliminary to higher states of awareness.

Neptune, in astrology, is the planet of hidden matters, veiled strength, and behind-the-scenes activities. Its influence can be subversive, illusory or kindly, but usually has a formless, boundless, non-material nature. This ties in with its attribution to the Hanged Man, because the state of consciousness he depicts is boundless and non-material in the ordinary sense. Neptune is said to be the higher octave of Venus, so its effect when well aspected gives a sensitiveness to and an appreciation of beauty, art, music and all things esthetic. Actually, its influence gives more than an appreciation of beauty for its own sake. Those in whom this vibration is prominent are able to utilize all things beautiful to create a mood of loveliness and charm for themselves. It is a mark of deep sensitivity to all that is lovely and esthetic.

When prominent in the chart and well aspected, Neptune also gives a special ability to veil inward awarenesses with an outward show of conformity when necessary. In other words, the ability to put on a good act when the need arises. After Neptune was discovered, interest in spiritualism, psychic matters, telepathy and psychometry developed in their modern form. Science began to explain 'matter' in non-solid ways.

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The Neptune vibration is particularly active in the functions of the nerve center back of the well of the throat, where it works in conjunction with the Venusian force also active at that point. It is likewise dominant in the feet, and whenever the weather permits, you will find that contact with the earth through the bare feet will calm your nerves and increase your vitality.

The Neptune vibration is also active in our ability to make a given set of circumstances produce an effect just the opposite to that which is the usual result. Look at Key 12. You will see that the Hanged Man is not suffering and that a glory is shining around his head. He is symbolizing the operation in human life of a power which is only beginning to find expression on the physical plane, although its effect upon mental and spiritual conditions have been known for centuries by the wise. A person in whom this force is strong and well developed feels that something in the universe supports him adequately in all of his work. Sometimes vaguely, sometimes very definitely, he senses that every detail of his life is the expression of a power or powers which extend far beyond the limits of his personality. He realizes that whatever he accomplishes is achieved through him, rather than by him. This mental attitude, it must be conceded, is not common and it is the reverse of that held by the greater number of people in the world. Yet, we have daily before us the evidence that the greater number of persons do not realize their heart's desires. History, furthermore, presents us with numberless examples of the fact that the man or woman who does achieve great things is always more or less clearly aware that universal forces work through the various phases of personality.

The influence from Neptune in a chart lasts for several years, as this planet takes some fourteen years to transit a sign. If its aspect is beneficent, your outer affairs should run smoothly and there should be a feeling of very real satisfaction. There isn't a better time for spiritual development than this, but a great deal depends upon the use you make of the force. Many of us seem little inclined to seek inner growth and understanding unless our material affairs are upset. When there is peace and harmony in our everyday lives, there is an inclination to relax our studies and just float along on the crest of the wave. This is an excellent vibration to strengthen your ties with the Real Self. It is also a good time to develop latent artistic ability in any field.

When Neptune is adversely aspecting your chart it is likely to bring upsets, some psychological, some material. Your aspirations may seem to be keyed to an entirely different level of development from those of the average individual. At the same time you may be forced to live a life which seems antagonistic to everything you hold worthwhile. It is absolutely necessary, in order to maintain proper balance, that you do some sort of creative or spiritual work. Doing this will make it possible for you to understand the reasons for your outer trials and will develop your intuition. This vibration can also bring you a very definite realization of your oneness with the Life-power. Here is an opportunity for spiritual growth which comes only once in a lifetime. Sometimes adverse aspects are better in many ways than those which are supposed to be good. The latter, while beneficial in material ways and outer expression, are apt to incline us toward an easy-going tendency to accept the illusion of success and popularity as all that is necessary to a 'perfect existence'. Neptune

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does not force you to accept his rule, but he gives you the water-cure by washing out of your life the forms to which you have become unduly attached, until you finally come to realize the folly of the world's false values as compared with the Great Treasure of inner growth.

When you are under Neptune aspects you should make every effort to fit yourself into the social scheme in a positive way. You must realize that those whom you like and those whose personalities do not appeal to you are equally a part of life, are equally important to the Greater Scheme of which you and they are a part. When this aspect is being emphasized there are demands on one to subordinate his personal desires and feelings and flow willingly with the current of the stream of his life. Cultivate awareness of what is really happening and refuse to accept the seeming as true. During trying times, remember that there is always present the opportunity for contact with 'that which knows' and that you may fully depend upon this power to see you through. Turning to lesser things for forgetfulness will only increase your misery instead of dissipating it.

The benefic aspects of this vibration also indicate changes coming through outer conditions with ability to meet them understandingly. Your intuition should function strongly at this time. The major danger is that in this state of strengthened sensitivity you may accept mere feelings for intuitions. True guidance, remember, never runs counter to reason and logic.

Work with Tarot Key No. 12 and the Technique which follows will intensify your inner awareness that all conditions in your life are supported by a power adequate to meet your every need. It will enable you to put into operation the Law of Reversal, which will transmute even the most threatening adverse conditions into means to bring about the results which now present themselves to your imagination as being desirable. It will arouse in your subconscious mind the positive working of the Neptunian force. This will increase your psychic sensitiveness, so that you will quickly feel the innate quality of persons and circumstances. It will open your mind to inspirations from superconscious levels. It will make you more idealistic and at the same time give you power to clothe your ideals in definite mental imagery which will enable you to weave your dreams into the actual fabric of material manifestation. Tarot Key 12 typifies the attitude of willingness to give one's self up freely to the realization of the unutterable splendor of achievement which is possible for every human being who has learned how to get his petty personality out of the way of the great cosmic forces, so that he becomes the immediate agent of these forces working always toward beautiful results.

TECHNIQUE

As before, attune the seven basic centers before doing this technique. Place Keys No. 3 and No. 12 before you. Intone F-sharp to Key No. 3 and G-sharp to Key No. 12. As the higher octave of Venus, it is important to use both Keys for awakening the Neptune vibration. Now image yourself as permeated with the blue of Neptune and in your imagination place yourself in the position of the Hanged Man. You are thus symbolizing a reversal of consciousness. Feel yourself as utterly dependent upon the One Self for all your thoughts, emotions and desires. Con-

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centrate your attention on surrender to guidance. Feel your body as a vehicle for the expression of superconscious forces. The more you can arouse a feeling of complete surrender to the One Will, the more your personality will be attuned to guidance from above. There is only One Will and your personality is ever growing toward a more complete expression of Its limitless power.

AFFIRMATION

I give up my petty personality completely. I surrender all my thoughts, actions and desires to expressing perfect attunement with the universal principles behind all aspects of personality. "I have no will save the will of Him that sent me." ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Twenty-five

(THE HIGHER OCTAVE PLANETS) — PLUTO

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Pluto, associated in Tarot with Key No. 20, is said by astrologers to be the higher octave of Mars and to be co-ruler with Mars in Scorpio. Its vibration is an intense force which helps us destroy the coffins of error that hold us in bondage. If you will look at Key 20 in conjunction with Key 16, you will see a similarity of symbolism. In Key 16 there is a tower; in Key 20 there are coffins. Both are symbols of bondage to false knowledge. In Key 16 the male and female figures that are being thrown out of their prison are clothed. They are clothed because they are ashamed. They are hiding their true nature from each other. In contrast, the figures in Key 20 are naked and are accompanied by a child. The male and female of Key 16 have given birth to a child (resurrected personality) and they are no longer imprisoned in coffins. They are now able to be open and honest with each other. No longer lost in mass consciousness, they are receptive to guidance from the angel. The man is the regenerated self-consciousness and the female is the regenerated subconsciousness. They have given birth to the new personality, freed from its grave of error.

Pluto is the most recently discovered, exoterically, of the higher octave planets. Its effect is not yet fully expressed in the natural man. In our course 32 PATHS OF WISDOM, Key 20 is associated with the Perpetual Intelligence, implying a perpetual recognition of the power of spirit. When this force becomes more fully expressed, man will be able to renew and perpetuate his mind and body. Sleep will cease for us. We will put our bodies to rest, but we will be able to remain awake and consciously functioning in the 4th dimension. To be unconscious eight out of twenty-four hours is unnecessary. When we are able to tune more fully into this vibration it will help us develop the physical instruments necessary for recording experiences on other planes.

Shin (𐤑), the Hebrew letter associated with Pluto, is one of the three 'mother' letters of the higher octave planets. It is also attributed to fire. This correlates with its being the octave of Mars, the fiery planet. The banner on the trumpet of the angel in Key 20 is a square of 5 by 5 units. It is a magic square of Mars, having 25 cells. The Pluto force symbolizes fire at work in the areas that Mars rules both psychologically and physically. Furthermore, in the Cube of Space, Shin corresponds to the line joining the north face, attributed to Mars, to the south face, attributed to the Sun, source of all fire in the physical world. The Cube is brought into manifestation from the central point. As you have seen, all the higher octave planets, related as they are to super-conscious states, are assigned to these co-ordinates. The first co-ordinate is assigned to Aleph and the Uranus vibration. This line extends upward from the center to the face above, assigned to Mercury, and downward to the face below, assigned to the Moon. Mem extends eastward from the center to the eastern face, assigned to Venus, of which it is the higher vibration, and from the center to the western face, assigned to Jupiter. Each of the interior co-ordinates is an aspect of superconsciousness or an awareness of the Within. Uranus is associated with the

life aspect of superconsciousness. Neptune, because of its attribution to water, is associated with the substance aspect, while Pluto and fire are associated with the activity aspect of superconsciousness. Thus Uranus is mainly concerned with superconscious awareness of life; Neptune with superconscious awareness of substance; and Pluto with superconscious awareness of activity. Motion or activity is the root of our time concepts. The Pluto vibration helps us get rid of the delusions engendered by our incomplete perception of space and time. This in turn rids us of reliance on things and circumstances. We become "a child of earth risen from the grave of error".

As the ruler of Scorpio, a water sign and at the same time connected with fire through the letter Shin, Pluto symbolizes the 'moist fire' of the alchemists. This is further shown in Key 20 by the sea on which the coffins float and the fact that Gabriel is the archangel of water. Pluto is also connected among the supernals with Chokmah because Chokmah is said to be the root of fire.

The name of the angel, Gabriel, is from the same root as Geburah, the fifth Sephiroth sphere of the activity of Mars. Gabriel is the Divine Presence, or superconscious awareness, manifest as the irresistible strength of volition. This corresponds to the attribution of Key 20 and Pluto to the activity phase of superconsciousness.

The Plutonian vibration works to perfect the spiritual body of the new creature. Remember, this is a physical body incarnate on the physical plane. When perfected this body is freed from the necessity of birth and death. It begins the final incarnation as a natural body, but ends that incarnation transmuted into the immortal vehicle of the liberated adept. This is brought about by a realization of union with the Central Self. At first this realization comes in momentary flashes only, but as we persist in our work and practices, opening ourselves more directly to this vibration, these flashes will be repeated often enough for us to remember their import. As the flashes of direct cognition become more and more frequent, our delusions of separateness will be replaced by first-hand knowledge as to the true source of will. We are always in touch with something truly more than man. We need only become aware of it.

The Pluto force, as the higher octave of Mars, is connected with that center in our bodies. This center in the yoga doctrine is said to be the seat of the Apas Tattva, which is the Tattva of water. Here is another correlation of water with fire as Key 20 symbolizes it. In the human body this vibration is especially active in the nerve centers and organs concerned with reproduction. Thus in order to express this vibration positively, it is quite essential that we first transmute our ideas about the sex force. We must see it as the creative energy of the Most High. There can be no taint of shame connected with our thoughts about it.

On the Tree of Life the 31st Path of Shin carries the patterns framed by the intellectual activity of Hod down to the physical plane. Through this path also the powers of the Pillar of Severity are carried into the physical organism. This pillar is connected with the future. Key 20, as we have seen, depicts a state of consciousness which is in the future for most human beings. Always remember that it is through the

physical body, or the natural body, that the spiritual body, which transcends the necessities of birth and death in successive reincarnations, is resurrected. It is completed through the spiritual fire which enters the body by way of the thirty-first Path of Shin and the Plutonian vibration.

Key No. 20 depicts an interior metaphysical experience. The agency at work in this experience is the higher octave of Mars. Liberation has an aspect of destruction which we have come to associate with the Mars force. Every change in consciousness tears down cells. The liberation of the fiery essences of these cells is what makes us aware of states of consciousness beyond thought. Before this can occur, the Mars/Pluto force must burn up cells which obstruct the free flow of the Life-power through certain bodily channels. This we are doing in a safe, but certain, manner in our work with the Keys. When, through meditation and devotion to the One, we bring about this bodily alteration, the nerve force in the Mars/Pluto center is raised and energizes a center in the brain. We then emerge from the world of sense and three dimensions into the super-personal world known as the 4th dimension. The object of all our training is to get the inadequate personality out of the way so that the One Self may find no resistance to the free expression of its perfect mastery of mind and body.

At the stage of development depicted by Key 20, death is overcome because the experience it symbolizes transmutes the very force which we have learned to associate with Scorpio and Key 13 — the force that destroys our physical bodies. Our higher vehicles are then liberated from their bondage to the physical plane. The new man is the little child (transmuted personality) in Key 20. When we enter four-dimensional consciousness, our personal consciousness is lead into a new world.

In Key 20 the clouds that surround the angel symbolize the veiling of the true nature of the Self by appearances. The appearances of our sense world are really the flow of the stream of consciousness which gives us our ideas of time. These ideas blind us to the true nature of the One Identity. The trumpet which the angel is blowing is an instrument for amplifying sound vibration. In our work we amplify the vibrations of the seven planets as well as balance them, in order to prepare ourselves for liberation. The icebergs refer to the fixation of the volatile, depicted in Key 12 as a state of Samadhi. The fixation is of the stream of consciousness. This state culminates in the even higher state depicted in Key 20, which is a more perpetual or constant awareness of superconsciousness. The positions of the arms of the three figures symbolize L.V.X., Latin for Light. The man is in an attitude of passive adoration. This, as we have learned from our previous studies, is a first essential in attuning ourselves to receptivity from above. We must become transparent channels for the Higher Life descending from that Above to the lower levels of manifestation. The more transparent self-consciousness becomes, the less interference it offers to the free passage of the Light of the True Self.

All the Tarot Keys relating to the seven planets correspond to the pairs of opposites. When we fully express the state of consciousness which the Pluto vibration initiates, there is a perfect blending of all the seven pairs of opposites. Thus the grey flesh of the figures shows that the forces of the seven centers have been perfectly coordinated.

In mythology Pluto is god of the underworld, but he was known to be a just and incorruptible judge. He passes judgments that may bring sorrow and suffering but are necessary for growth and purification. Pluto, which was discovered exoterically only in 1931, has not yet come to its full measure of influence. There should be great advances under this influence that will ultimately bring to the world consciousness some measure of the resurrection and regeneration symbolized by Key 20. As god of the underworld, Pluto rules the subconscious workings of the body and the transmuting actions which bring about higher states of consciousness. He is also said by astrologers to rule the conscience — our ability to distinguish right actions from wrong. Activity as a key word associated with Pluto implies actions which ultimately overthrow the present limitations of mind. Through this vibration man will be able to renew and perpetuate his mind and body until he is totally receptive to superconscious guidance. This is one reason why many astrologers consider Pluto to be the highest indicator of spiritual development and potential.

In its aspect of renewal, the potent influence of vitamins to the human body became known and applied beneficially soon after the advent of Pluto. Even its eruptive aspects can be beneficent. That which has been in the dark and bound or enclosed can be violently ejected. One instance of this, since the discovery of Pluto, is the development of atomic power. Psychology has also come into the fore. That which was unconscious and hidden can be discovered through psychoanalysis. People have thus been helped to eliminate overstressed repressions from the subconscious mind. Astrologers also associate transmutation, the workings of the Life force through sex, birth and death, with Pluto. This correlates with its co-rulership of Scorpio. In all these — sex, birth and death — that which has been bound is released. Thus Pluto is connected with beginnings and endings.

In a personal chart, the ability for decisive, eliminative actions will be determined by Plutonian characteristics. However, its effect on a chart should not be taken too personally unless very prominent. Pluto stays in one sign for from fifteen to thirty years, so its sign position is not particularly important except as to generations. Because of its co-rulership of Scorpio, its effects are tied in with traits attributed to Scorpio and the 8th house. Pluto can be a key to a person's ability to free himself from that which has held him in bondage. If Pluto is significantly aspecting the Sun or ruling planet, then more emphasis can be considered. House position is also a key. When in good aspect, or where the person is sufficiently developed to handle this force, it can help in the discovery of error and detection of injustice. It has a revitalizing effect on ideas and tends to promote health, preserve life, and encourage free expression of subconscious activities. It can be beneficial to finance and favorable to astral and dream experience. It is connected with healing, surgery, taxes and legacies.

In adverse aspect it tends to invert its beneficial qualities. In the charts of those who are not yet able to handle its disruptive vibrations it can indicate low morality, lack of conscience, indecency and disrespect for law. The gangsterism rampant in the last few decades is an instance of its inverted influence, where it is expressed in a lack of social con-

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science and a failure to see realities or truth. The Technique outlined below is designed to help us awaken the beneficent, renewing influences of the potent Pluto vibration.

TECHNIQUE

After attuning the seven basic centers as outlined in previous lessons, place Keys No.16 and No. 20 before you, along with the red color card. Intone Ee-Ah-Oh to the note C and image your body and aura as permeated with a vivid, vibrant red. Open yourself mentally to the renewing, revitalizing Pluto vibration. Feel in yourself a willingness to let go of all structures of error and false knowledge. Through the activity of this vibration you are transmuting the subconscious workings of the body and preparing yourself for perpetual receptivity to higher states of consciousness.

AFFIRMATION

The structures of error embodied in my flesh are ready for change and transmutation. Through the beneficent revitalizing influence of the Pluto vibration I prepare myself to become an ever more open channel for Light from Above. . . the Light that will lead me ultimately to the mystic resurrection of four dimensional consciousness. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Twenty-six

ASTROLOGICAL ASPECTS

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

In the next lesson we will begin our study of the twelve basic zodiacal types and the thirty-six sub-types. When we have a knowledge of these we will be ready to construct our personal Tarot Tableau and learn how to utilize it to help us in solving our basic problems for this incarnation. But before taking up the zodiacal types, we will in this lesson indicate some of the more important aspects to be considered in reading a chart. Remember, in this course on Esoteric Astrology we are not going to go into the construction of a chart as such. You can find this information in any exoteric astrology textbook. We are guiding you to a fuller understanding and interpretation of all aspects of astrology by interpreting them through our knowledge of Tarot and Qabalah.

Astronomically, aspects are angular distances made at the center of the earth between a line from one planet and a line from another. These are measured in degrees along the ecliptic. In interpreting an astrological chart these aspects are most important because they qualify the way in which the principles, represented by the planets, manifest and thus affect how we express these principles. Most modern astrologers no longer use the terms "good" and "bad", because they are misleading. The terms "easy" and "difficult" are preferred. We are in agreement with these terms. All aspects are basically good; some are just easier than others. The more difficult ones may cause conflicts, but these very conflicts are a source of power which we can use for positive good.

TABLE OF MAJOR ASPECTS

(Two more degrees of orbit are allowed if one of the aspecting planets is the Sun or Moon.)

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Exactness</u>	<u>Orb</u>	<u>Implication</u>
♌	Conjunction	0°	8°	Strong — according to nature of planets involved.
♍	Opposition	180°	8°	Tenseness.
♎	Trine	120°	8°	Ease and helpfulness.
♏	Square	90°	8°	Difficult — can be energizing and constructive.
♐	Sextile	60°	4°	Helpful — but to a lesser degree than trine.
♑	Semi-square	45°	2°	Difficult.
♒	Semi-sextile	30°	2°	Slightly stressful.

Planets brought into connection by aspects basically affect each other according to their natures and according to the type of aspect. No single factor in a chart can be judged by itself. All factors should be

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interpreted in relation to main factors. Hence too much ease or too many trines interpreted in conjunction, for instance, with a lazy ascendant could result in non-action and thus result in disaster rather than success. On the other hand, in a strong chart, difficult aspects, such as squares and oppositions, often result in success because the power is there to overcome difficulties.

CONJUNCTION - These are strong focal points. The planets involved will react on each other or modify each other.

OPPOSITION - Planets in opposition are actually connected with each other by polarity. Often the principle of one planet may supplement that of the other, though in general this aspect includes a tenseness.

T-Square - The tenseness will be increased if another planet or planets is square to one end of the opposition. The tenseness will be lessened if other planets are trine or sextile to one end or the other of the opposition.

TRINE - Generally very helpful. However, too many trines may signify an expectation that "all the world owes me a living", and thus stifle personal effort.

Grand Trine - The easefulness will be intensified when three or more planets make a triangular formation in the chart. Some astrologers look with disfavor on Grand Trines. Certainly undeveloped personalities would accomplish very little of worth during an incarnation if too much good fortune is bestowed upon them. With this aspect the chart should be studied for strength of purpose in other ways. Actually it has been found that criminal types with such a configuration find it all too easy to achieve their anti-social ends. This aspect can indicate a pleasant, outgoing person who is at ease with himself and thus popular with others. Because an undeveloped type might come to rely on this popularity, those with Grand Trines are sometimes termed "parasitical".

SQUARE - Generally obstructive or disruptive. However, these obstructions and conflicts are basically powerful and can be used for energy and action. The charts of highly developed and successful people usually show both trines and squares.

Grand Cross - The obstruction is most intense when four or more planets complete a four-cornered square, which includes two oppositions. Even highly developed people could find life very hard in the face of so much difficulty. The chart should be examined for help in other areas that would tend to mitigate this configuration.

SEXTILE - Helpful, but to a lesser degree than a trine.

SEMI-SQUARE - Difficult, as it partakes of the nature of the square.

SEMI-SEXTILE - Often called helpful because it is related to the sextile, but it can be slightly stressful since there is no natural relationship between the signs from which the planets aspect each other.

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We will now give you a brief account of the general effect of the aspects of the planets to each other. Remember, these are very general and you should attempt interpretation in conjunction with your knowledge of Tarot.

ASPECTS OF THE SUN

To the Moon - A conjunction brings general harmony and ease. Difficult aspects initiate disharmony that can be an impetus to accomplishment.

To Mercury - A conjunction will emphasize the sign involved, since both mentality and self-expression will partake of its nature. Some astrologers term too close a conjunction "combust" and say that the mentality can be adversely affected, but this has not proven to be the case in research by many astrologers.

To Venus - A Venus/Sun conjunction indicates that the individuality will be expressed through the affections. This also usually indicates a love of beauty and art. The semi-sextile and semi-square incline toward idealism.

To Mars - Conjunctions and good aspects indicate an energetic, bold, strong, forceful individuality. Difficult aspects may impair vitality and indicate a tendency to bad temper or cruelty.

To Jupiter - Conjunctions and easy aspects can be interpreted as cheerfulness, expansiveness and generosity of character; also plenty of opportunities for success. Difficult aspects can lead to over-reliance on luck, conceit, extravagance and ostentation.

To Saturn - Conjunctions and difficult aspects indicate limitations on self-expression, difficult lessons to learn, feelings of inadequacy, and self-control. Easy aspects also indicate limitations or frustrations, but with better acceptance. All Saturn aspects, if properly handled, can lead to wisdom, patience and success in later life.

To Uranus - Conjunctions and easy aspects indicate an independent, interesting, magnetic, dramatic, original nature. Also success in inventiveness. Difficult aspects can be disruptive and lead to rebelliousness, brusqueness and eccentricity.

To Neptune - Conjunctions indicate attractions to music, art, psychism, the spiritual and mystical; can indicate a lack of concreteness. Easy aspects can be interpreted as strong, imaginative abilities and an ethereal, inspirational nature. Difficult aspects can result in vagueness, susceptibility to self-deception, and escapism in drugs and alcohol.

To Pluto - Conjunctions and easy aspects indicate ability to free oneself from bonds and ties, and eliminate the unneeded and unwanted. Difficult aspects can result in ruthless behavior to others if found in undeveloped types.

ASPECTS OF THE MOON

To Mercury - Conjunctions and easy aspects indicate a sensitive and energetic mentality; good memory. Difficult aspects give a

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restlessness, excitability and tendency to nervous system disorders.

To Venus - Conjunctions and easy aspects give poise, balance, charm and a love of beauty. Difficult aspects can indicate a troubled emotional expression and problems in love.

To Mars - Conjunctions indicate a robust nature, courage, physical and emotional strength; can cause over-activity and nervous tension. Easy aspects give an ability for strong, successful activity. Difficult aspects can lead to a moody, quarrelsome nature.

To Jupiter - Conjunctions and easy aspects are extremely helpful. They imply an optimistic nature, good health and success. Difficult aspects indicate the same tendency, but danger of extravagance and over-optimism.

To Saturn - Conjunctions indicate a cool, cautious, duty-bound, orderly nature with tendencies to feelings of inadequacy. Difficult aspects are similar, but also impair relationships with women. However, they give an ability to meet hardships philosophically. Easy aspects give a deep sense of responsibility and orderliness, but may tend to a too sober personality.

To Uranus - Conjunctions indicate an intense emotional nature, unconventional tendencies, independent behavior. Easy aspects bring strong intuitions, desire for change and an ability to meet change. Difficult aspects can result in nervous tension, changeable affections and eccentricity.

To Neptune - Conjunctions and easy aspects indicate sensitivity, ability for deep understanding of motives, receptivity to ideas, love of all that is beautiful and esthetic, well developed imagination. Difficult aspects can indicate the same if properly handled, however, in a lazy or undeveloped chart, they can indicate escapism, self-deceit and susceptibility to delusion.

To Pluto - Conjunctions and good aspects indicate ability to eliminate negative subconscious patterns. Difficult aspects subject the native to violent upsets if not properly handled.

ASPECTS OF MERCURY

To Venus - Conjunctions give ease in writing and speech, charm, harmony and balance. The difficult aspects are not harmful, as these planets cannot be more than 76° apart. Actually, the semi-square can be very constructive in the expression of beauty and harmony in painting and craftsmanship.

To Mars - Conjunctions indicate a strong, forceful, quick mind. Easy aspects give power and courage to mental abilities. Difficult aspects can indicate an energizing of the mentality to the point of overstrain. Sarcasm and caustic expression can result.

To Jupiter - Conjunctions and easy aspects indicate width of mind, optimism, humor, cheerfulness and wit. Difficult aspects indicate an over-expansive mind that leads to lack of grasp of detail. This can result in poor judgment.

To Saturn - Conjunctions can lead to limitations of mental and nervous powers, resulting in dullness and inertia. If well aspected, a conjunction can give great power of concentration and drive, though worry and depression will be frequent. Good aspects, though limiting, will result in great ability for concentration and a cautious, methodical mind. Difficult aspects can result in narrow-minded thinking, over-discipline, and a pessimistic, dreary outlook on life.

To Uranus - Conjunctions result in a changeful, revolutionary mentality. Can result in genius, inventiveness and brilliance of mind. Good aspects also give a brilliant, inventive mentality, quick speech, independence and self-reliance. Difficult aspects are also indicative of strong mental action, but can lead to over-eccentricity, brusqueness and an inability to communicate effectively with others.

To Neptune - Conjunctions with Neptune give a sensitive, imaginative, kindly mentality. Good aspects also give the mind an ability to channel higher aspects of awareness, a receptivity to intuition, writing and artistic ability. Difficult aspects also result in vivid imagination, but can lead to gullibility, confusion and over-sensitivity to criticism, and escapism in drugs and alcohol.

To Pluto - Conjunctions and good aspects can lead to an ability for spiritual development through elimination of negative habit patterns and false knowledge. Difficult aspects can result in the same, though usually by a more violent, disruptive route.

ASPECTS OF VENUS

To Mars - Conjunctions give strong sex drive and an ability to love deeply, though not always expressed with delicacy. Good aspects give warmth and enthusiasm in affections and sex life. Difficult aspects can give a harshness to the affections, and though feelings are strong, they can cause hurt. Sex relationships are intense, but quarrelsome.

To Jupiter - Conjunctions result in popularity, social success, harmonious relationships with others; artistic inclinations are strong and love affairs frequent. Good aspects again result in popularity, ease in attracting others through charm, happy and frequent love relationships. Difficult aspects tend to too much desire for ease, trouble through frequent love affairs, and an inability to be happy alone.

To Saturn - Conjunctions and easy aspects seem to limit expression of love, but often lead to a successful relationship because of a one-pointed affection for a chosen one. Difficult aspects also limit love expression and tend to a solitary life. There can be sorrow through loss of love.

To Uranus - Conjunctions indicate unusual ideas about love, art, beauty; excitement and changefulness in love relationships. Easy aspects also give unusualness in love and artistic expression; a magnetic, attractive personality; delightful, fascinating relationships with others. Difficult aspects lead to the same unusual and fascinating relationships, but with a tendency to unpleasant endings. There would also be an inability to relax, resulting in nervous tension.

To Neptune - Conjunctions combine receptivity and sensitivity with harmony, rhythm and beauty. The result is sweetness of character, artistic expression, and psychic and mystical tendencies. Some delusion may be noticed in love relationships. The imagination is strong and well-developed. Good aspects tend to a likelihood of much success through the attributions listed above. Difficult aspects give the same tendencies, but more constructive effort is needed to develop them. Delusion is more probable, and deception and confusion in love affairs can result.

To Pluto - Conjunctions can indicate upheaval in the affections. Good aspects indicate the same, but with better results. Difficult aspects can lead to trouble and unpleasantness through the affections.

ASPECTS OF MARS

To Jupiter - Conjunctions give increased energy, desire for enjoyment, daring and courage. Good aspects give the same, but with even more gaiety, fun and humor. This aspect is fortunate for material success because opportunity is combined with enthusiasm and energy. Difficult aspects can lead to undisciplined extravagance in thought and deed and result in overstrain.

To Saturn - Conjunctions tend to combine energy and limitation. If properly handled, this configuration can be used to energize inertia or subdue excess energy. However, the results can be depressing to the energetic and hurtful to the slow and solid. Good aspects combine the same principles, but with better possibility of harmonious interplay. Difficult aspects can force the native to patient completion of tasks, but not with ease. Narrowness of outlook can produce selfishness and egocentricity.

To Uranus - Conjunctions of Mars and Uranus combine initiative with drive and volition in unusual ways. The result can be impressive, but there is likely to be much nervous tension and disruptive behavior. Easy aspects can, because of the forces involved, result in unusual successes, particularly in scientific or New Age fields. The personality will be compulsive, magnetic. Difficult aspects have the same tendency to magnetic leadership, but results can be explosive if not properly handled. Impatience, nervous strain, violent temper and tactlessness can result.

To Neptune - Conjunctions and good aspects indicate an interest in mysticism and occultism pursued with energy and desire to experiment in new ways; interest in the sea; enthusiasm for art, music, idealism. Difficult aspects can lead to delusion, disappointment and escapism.

To Pluto - Conjunctions are explosive and likely to bring an end to conditions, forcing new beginnings. Easy aspects usually bring good results after a crisis. Difficult aspects result in forceful action, but with dubious results.

ASPECTS OF JUPITER

To Saturn - The principles combined here, limitation and expansiveness, are contradictory. The result is usually alternatives of gay optimism and deep depression. This configuration can lead to most satisfactory results if the rhythm is noted and outgoing expansiveness is sought in the optimistic periods, while study and learning are pursued during the sober periods. Easy aspects usually bring success in material ways, since control and caution are combined with optimism and a desire for expansion. Difficult aspects, as usual, can bring success, but with more hardship and delays.

To Uranus - Conjunctions usually express in willfulness and in unconventional and expansive ways. It can be helpful to those who can handle this combination, otherwise resentfulness and rebellion can result. Easy aspects give a forceful, magnetic, determined nature and an expansive optimistic personality; can indicate genius. Difficult aspects indicate the same freedom-loving expansiveness, but with less ease of expression. Can produce a tactlessness and bluntness that is offensive to others. Egocentricity can also result.

To Neptune - Conjunctions give a love of the sea, music, dancing, color harmony. They bestow a kind, philanthropic nature with a strong social conscience. The conjunction can lead to over-idealism, fantasy and deceit of self and others if the subversive side of Neptune is expressed. Easy aspects give the same beneficent qualities, but with less danger of expressing the undesirable ones. They also indicate a highly intuitive nature capable of much spiritual attainment. Difficult aspects, as ever, are more compulsive, but can result in the same good results if properly handled. In undeveloped types, the exaggerative effects of Jupiter combined with the receptive sensitivity of Neptune can lead to escapism in drugs and alcohol, and treachery and foolishness.

To Pluto - Conjunctions and difficult aspects indicate explosive reactions; many new beginnings; prominence some time in life. Benefic aspects give an ease in casting off old contacts and readiness to start anew. Successful prominence is also indicated.

ASPECTS OF SATURN

To Uranus - Conjunctions give an ability for practical planning combined with unusual foresightedness that can bring brilliant results. There may be nervous tension because freedom of thought and limitation do not easily combine. They are apt to alternate in expression. Easy aspects indicate the same tendencies, with greater ease of accomplishment. Difficult aspects are similar, but the contradictoriness of the two principles is more emphasized and more difficult to combine. Nervous tension is quite likely.

To Neptune - Conjunctions can be excellent in the well-developed because ideas and imagination are kept in bounds — thus given shape, form and concreteness. Easy aspects are similar. Orderliness and caution stop ideas from being too vague. Difficult aspects, as ever, are similar, but accomplishment comes with less ease and much frustration.

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To Pluto - These aspects occur rarely, but do last a long time. They are not to be considered too personally, but more as to world conditions. The limiting and controlling effect of Saturn would be combined with the eliminative, explosive effect of Pluto. The results would probably be unpleasant, but wholesome in the long run.

ASPECTS OF URANUS

To Neptune - Any planet aspected by Uranus will increase the person's urge to freedom and independence of behavior. The conjunction and opposition with Neptune recur about every 171 years. The last occurrence was in 1820, and it will not be repeated until 1991. Combine these for yourself and write down the result.

To Pluto - The rare aspects formed between two planets moving so slowly would be in all charts for so long that their effects would be on that generation, rather than to be considered too personally. However, if the aspect is prominent, consider it. Work out the combination with the use of your Tarot Keys. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Twenty-seven

ARIES (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

At this stage of your work, it becomes necessary to make sure that you are familiar with the B.O.T.A. presentation of the subject matter of astrology. Astrological terms and symbols are interchangeable with those of alchemy. These lessons will throw further light on the study of alchemy, which you took up in the GREAT WORK course in our curriculum. This study will help you to grasp the full significance of that instruction.

Possibly you have no great interest in astrology as it is usually presented, and it may be that you have even some prejudice against it. Let me say, then, that although much of the subject matter of these lessons resembles ordinary astrology, there is, for those who can read between the lines, a considerable difference. That difference is chiefly in the point of view from which the subject is approached. On the other hand, if you have studied astrology you may suppose that this course is only an elementary review of what you already know. But you will find, if you read carefully, that it is anything but that. The B.O.T.A. teaching, in relating astrological wisdom to Tarot, departs at a number of points from the ordinary exoteric astrology, both as to method and manner of interpretation.

In explaining the twelve basic types of humanity corresponding to the signs of the zodiac, moreover, we are really giving you a study in consciousness. You will be able to recognize the operation of these types in the people you meet daily, and you will find it an interesting exercise to identify these characteristics in the people you know. But still more important is the fact that in your own make-up all these types are present. One of the commonest errors of ordinary astrologers is the supposition that because a person has (for example) the Sun in Aries, with Gemini rising, that person is to be correctly described as an Aries-Gemini person. The characteristics of the two signs, it is true, will be emphasized in his individuality and personality. But all ten phases of consciousness which are represented by the other signs are at work on subconscious levels. Thus to know the full measure of your own nature, you will need to have some acquaintance with the twelve types; and this knowledge will also make it much easier for you to bring about harmony in personal relationships.

The lessons which follow are concerned with the twelve basic types of humanity indicated in astrology by the twelve signs of the zodiac and in Tarot by the twelve Keys corresponding to the signs. Through Tarot the astrological types are correlated to twelve basic types of consciousness which you have been studying in your Tarot courses.

Your Individuality sign (the zodiacal sign in which the sun was transiting at the time of your birth) shows certain dominant elements of your deeper inner life. Your Personality sign and Key (the sign of the zodiac ascending on the eastern horizon at the time of your birth) show like dominant elements of the vehicle through which your inner life finds expression. But every human being is a whole zodiac, and under proper stimulus we should be able to respond in thought, speech and action with the special qualities of any of the signs. Knowledge of all the various types can be of great practical value. It will help you to understand why people think and act as they do. It will enable you to put yourself in the other fellow's shoes. It will help you to develop sympathy and insight, and thus make you more serviceable, potentially to the

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Lord of Life. It will enable you to understand the occult sympathies and antipathies that we all feel. It will show you why you are instantly drawn to some people and repelled by others the minute you see them. In a word, it gives you that most important knowledge, a knowledge of the inner springs of human nature. Always bear in mind that the birthday is the clue to the Individuality sign and the birth hour the clue to the Personality.

Aries - The Emperor

This is the Individuality sign of people born between March 21 and April 19, inclusive. The basic mental qualities of the sign, as given in the chart are: impulsiveness, enterprise, and the pioneering spirit. Aries people are fiery and active, for the sign is the cardinal sign of the fire triplicity. All fire signs are energetic, and all cardinal signs are motive, or active. In Aries, these qualities are expressed as an abundance of mental energy which makes the natives of the sign feel an inner impulse to leadership.

Whether the impulse works out advantageously or not depends upon the way it is directed. Desire to lead is not quite the same thing as ability to do so, and thus we find undeveloped Aries people sometimes among those whose motto is "rule or ruin". Undue self-assertiveness is their besetting sin, and they are the ones who "take their dolls and go home" unless the game is played their way. But when the spirit of leadership is combined with wise training and direction, these are the people who are at the head of every progressive movement.

No Aries native likes to take orders. The imperative mood antagonizes them. If you can show them good reasons why a particular thing should be done, they will gladly take it up on their own initiative. On the other hand, they are fond of ordering people about. They like to direct, and they have foresight to plan. Hence they should select types of work where they will be free to express their own ideas and put them into execution, and where they can direct the activities of other people.

Adventure appeals to them, and it is significant that England, a great pioneering nation, is under the rulership of Aries. From that stock, pioneers in religion and in political philosophy, came the founders of the United States, whose motto, on the reverse side of the Great Seal, is *NOVO ORDO SECLORUM*, that is, "A New World-Order". Notice that word "Order". With all their impulsiveness and enterprise, this Aries type loves order and is able to keep it. As much is hinted by the name of the corresponding Tarot Key. Emperor really means, "He who sets in order". Much of the Aries pioneering is based on this love of order. It is not so much the love of novelty for its own sake that takes the Aries people into the paths of adventure. What they are after is a better arrangement of things, a more satisfactory management of their affairs.

This is what is meant by the basic type of consciousness associated with the sign in the Hebrew wisdom. Constituting Intelligence is fundamentally orderly. It is based on clear mental vision of the elements of a problem. And Aries people excel in mental vision. Almost all of them are good visualizers. They picture things definitely and concretely, and although they are described as impulsive, the impulse that drives them is more mental than emotional. That is, they reason with great speed, and quickly arrive at clear pictures of what they want to do. Indeed, they so outstrip the natives of some other signs in this ability, that in their conversation they seem to be jumping about from one subject to another. You say something to them, and if you are the least bit prolix or verbose in your elaboration of your theme, they

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have arrived at your conclusion before you have stated it. Thus in talking with Aries people, it is wise to be brief and concrete. Put your thought as much as possible in a nutshell. They will get the main points without difficulty. But if you go too much into detail, you will lose their interest.

As a rule, they care little for authority, unless they are the ones who exercise it. They are likely to "make their own rules", and sometimes this gets them into trouble. These are the boys and girls who chafe under the restrictions of small town life, who leave home early and strike out for themselves.

The characteristic features of the Arian are a pointed and prominent sheep-like nose, wide forehead, and pointed chin. Thus the face is triangular in outline. They often have light brown hair, verging on reddish. The body is often slender and well-formed, and the movements are characterized by energy and quickness. The dominant color of the sign is red, which is also the color of the ruling planet, Mars. This corresponds to the musical tone C-natural. This color and tone are to be used in stimulating the normal function of the parts of the body ruled by Aries, which are: The head, the cerebral hemispheres, and the various organs in the head, with the exception of the nose, which is governed by Scorpio.

The Aries Sub-types

People born between March 21 and March 30 are the most intense of the Aries types. The influence of Mars is doubly manifest in their lives, because it rules the ten days just mentioned, as well as the whole sign. More than any other natives of this sign, these people are given to acting on the spur of the moment. They must be in action all the time. They are therefore wholly unsuited for sedentary work. They should have an occupation which gives them plenty of active contact with other people, and plenty of opportunity for exercising initiative. Children of this type find it almost impossible to keep still.

Those born between March 31 and April 9, inclusive, combine the influence of the Sun with that of Mars. The quality of the Sun vibration, which manifests itself through the cardiac plexus, is vitalizing, radiant, expansive. This influence, typified by the 19th Key of Tarot, has been explained in earlier courses. The Sun is 'exalted' in Aries. This exaltation, you will recall, is symbolized by the golden sceptre, the golden globe, and the golden crown of the Emperor. For Aries rules the head, and it is in the head of man that solar force finds its highest manifestations on earth.

People born between April 10 and 19, inclusive, are under the influence of the beneficent vibrations of Jupiter, which are centered in the solar plexus, as explained in Lesson 9. They are somewhat more generous than other natives of Aries. They are also more philosophical. They have a deep religious strain, but as they retain the pioneering, adventurous qualities of the sign, they are usually numbered among the adherents of the more advanced schools of religion and philosophy. They are enthusiastic about their conventions, and eager to lead others to see the light.

After reading this Lesson, concentrate upon Keys 4, 16, 19, and 10, laying them on the table in that order. Do this during the coming week, and you will stir into action within you the best of the positive qualities of the Aries type. In the next lesson we will take up the esoteric significance of the Aries consciousness taken from transcripts of class work by Ann Davies. ##

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Lesson Twenty-eight

ARIES (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

In this lesson we will be dealing with the esoteric aspects of the Aries consciousness. Remember, it is our job to become the positive qualities of each of the zodiacal types.

The Emperor, to which Aries is attributed, means the King. It is the first sign of the zodiac. It is related to that bodily part of ourselves which is the head -- that is, certain parts of the brain, as well as the face. It is related esoterically and through Tarot to vision. By vision we mean the inner vision. Never forget that when we see anything which appears as a physical phenomena, this is merely the manner through which certain aspects of consciousness, or certain kinds of vibrations, are translated by our self-consciousness. We are an entire zodiac, as you will see. We are also centers of expression for all of the planets which are within our specific solar system. Each of us is a special co-mingling of various energies. Therefore, each of us comprehends the universe in a specialized manner.

What we shall learn to do is to function from the viewpoint of any one of the signs of the zodiac for a specific period or purpose as it is required. In psychology there is the development of a new word called "empathy". The idea of this is that, through empathy, one has the ability or the sensitivity to be able to tune into another human being's feelings and thoughts. Remember the old Indian saying, "Judge no man until you have walked in his moccasins for three moons." Developing empathy will help you to understand and judge your fellow human beings more accurately.

How do our problems arise and what do they stem from? First of all, we have not yet learned how to have true vision, as shown by the Emperor, in relation to our own consciousness. When we lack an understanding of our own make-up, we certainly are unable to have true insight (vision) into the make-up of another individual. So, we react with annoyance, with irritation, with condemnation. These are the negative ways in which we react. When we learn to develop the positive elements of all the zodiacal signs, as depicted in the Tarot Keys, we are more apt to react with understanding, compassion and insight. We will then be in a better position to help another individual. You cannot help others if you do not know what is going on in their hearts. No matter how apparently materialistic a person might be, intuitively everyone knows whether you are understanding and accepting him or not. What we do not realize is this: People do not really want us to think that they are brilliant, if they know in their hearts that they are not. They do not really want us to endow them with certain characteristics if they know they have not developed these characteristics. What every human being longs for is understanding and acceptance. This can only come about when we learn to understand and accept ourselves and others.

Those of you who were born in the sign of Aries might feel that this is the most important sign for you to understand. The rest of you may not feel that this is as essential for you. If you feel that way, we hope we are going to help you to change your minds, because we all have a head, and therefore every one of us has Aries in his nature. Aries is necessarily on the cusp of one of the mundane houses in your personal astrology chart. So even if you were born with both the Sun and Ascendant in some other sign, those qualities which belong to Aries, e. i., vision, reason, etc., work and react through the interminglings of the energies that are related to the sign

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of the zodiac that you were born under. No matter where the Sun happened to be at the time of your birth, there are these elements that have to do with your head, your brain, your vision. It is just that through the particular sign of your Individuality, you have to work at developing the positive Aries qualities during this incarnation. Actually we can, if we have achieved that level of evolution, develop our Kingship, our rulership, in all of the signs of the zodiac. This is what we will have to do eventually. How do we know that this is not the incarnation in which we can take at least a very strong forward step towards that goal? A full, rounded, evolved human consciousness is an active self-conscious zodiac, aware of all parts of itself and able to tune into any individual with an empathy and understanding of his inner thinking and feeling. Such a human consciousness can tune into the consciousness of another and then tune right back out again to his own individuality. Therefore, it is important that you pay strict attention to the qualities of all of the signs of the zodiac. Try to understand them fully, meditate on them deeply, because not only will they help bring these qualities up to the fore of your own consciousness, but they will help you to develop positive relationships with others.

You will always run into representatives of all of the signs of the zodiac. In astrology we know that certain signs are said not to mix very well. They are squared to each other. There is said to be difficulty between individuals who have what are called square aspects to each other. Yet those who have achieved a higher evolutionary level in their consciousness can develop just as beautiful a relationship with a square aspect as with any other.

We have included with a previous lesson the Zodiacal Wheel. The tableau for Aries, which you were given in the last lesson, will help you develop the positive qualities of this sign. At a later date, the means for finding your personal tableau will be given. This will be the tableau connected with your own chart. It will help you gain insight into your real problem for this incarnation and the means for overcoming it.

The Aries nature, as we have said, is basically enterprising, pioneering and impulsive. Some may say, "Well, I know Aries people who are not that way." You don't know. Learn how to tune into them. You might discover that these qualities are there, but they are being blocked. Don't forget, we are the entire zodiac. Suppose the Moon was transiting a sign that is very conservative at the time of this individual's birth, and this person is expressing towards you more of the emotional aspects that are connected with the Moon. Again, suppose the rising sign happens to be in a conservative area of the chart. You would not be able to recognize the Aries qualities in the surface personality. Whatever our sign is, remember, we have to develop the positive qualities of the Aries nature - enterprising, pioneering, visionary - in terms of our own sign. It is through the complexities of these interminglings of aspects being colored by other aspects that the distinct individuality which is each one of us is achieved.

You are going to develop the ability to tune in and out of and understand the inner nature of each zodiacal type. This is what is going to make you the Emperor of your environment and give you the ability to serve the Lord of Life with ever greater awareness of all beautiful creations. As sons and daughters of God we must learn how to rule. In Genesis it says that God gave Adam dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every creeping and flying thing.

Each sign is divided into three sections. This is involved Qabalistically with the four-letter word I H V H and with the four elements depicted in the corners of

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Tarot Keys No. 10 and 21. In astrology these are the triplicities of air, earth, fire and water. These elements symbolize, among other things, the elemental beings. They are consciousnesses that have a hierarchy, just as there is a hierarchy of human consciousness going from the primitive to the most sublime. These angelic forces work in and with us, even though they are on another line of evolution. Yet we are to become as the Gods, because of eating of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, and thus developing individualized self-consciousness through awareness of polarities. The decanates of each sign are associated with these triplicities of the elements.

Aries belongs to the triplicity of fire. The first decanate of Aries governs the dates from March 21 through March 30. This decanate has a double rulership of Mars. The 16th Tarot Key is assigned to Mars, the planet primarily of physical action. It also governs all the motive powers of the organism. In Tarot Key No. 16 the disintegrative effect of this planet is shown with great emphasis. Mars is impulsive, hot, dry and electric. Its work is disintegrative, transforming, motive. Because of the double rulership of Mars in this decanate of Aries, the Mars influence is very strong. This type is said to be impetuous, spirited and active, in addition to the basic Aries nature.

We will be meditating on the tableaux corresponding to each sign of the zodiac as we go along. They are designed to awaken our abilities to tune into these cosmic forces more effectively. Remember that your lessons on Color and Sound are related to Esoteric Astrology. It would be a good idea to review that course in connection with this one.

Those born in the second decanate of Aries, March 31 through April 9, are said to be enthusiastic and loyal in nature. This is in addition to the basic Aries nature. These qualities are highlighted, however, because the second decanate has another planetary ruler involved. Since Aries belongs to the fire triplicity, the next fire sign after Aries in the natural order of the zodiac is the subruler of the second decanate of Aries. All signs who share in the same triplicity influence each other. The next fire sign after Aries is Leo, and the ruler of Leo is the Sun, so the Sun is the subruler of the second decanate.

The principle involved in rulerships and planetary influences is this: we are all citizens of the heavens. We belong to the universe. We receive the universal emanations, and we, in turn, emanate out to the universe. Within our own particular solar system, the sun is the center. In Qabalah it is called the Collective Intelligence. What is not known exoterically is that the sun keeps collecting within itself all the cosmic energies from the entire universe on the physical level. Consider it now on the level of consciousness, because everything is consciousness. The sun is continuously absorbing the universal consciousness. It is in continuous relationship with all of the energies and powers and knowledge of the Cosmic All, of God, of the Life Power. This being so, the sun emanates out universal consciousness, though physically it is making an impact on us which we experience as light. This light, or universal consciousness, hits each one of the other planets and reflects back to the earth specific qualities of consciousness related to each of the planets. In this reflection back to us, we absorb more or less of the specialized qualities according to our vehicle or make-up. If we have a vehicle which is attuned more readily, say, to the Mars energies, we absorb the Mars energies a little more readily and our nature is a little more influenced by the Mars vibration. Although we have them all, there are some that have a little extra strength, or more intensity, depending upon our specific chart at the time we were born. For instance, Mars is the ruler, or has an affinity for, Aries; so if in your personal chart you should have Mars in Aries, you

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would have what is said to be a very strong Mars nature. The strength of the Mars nature is also emphasized in the first decanate of Aries, as we have shown. The second decanate is influenced also by the sun.

Those born from April 10 through April 19 are in the third decanate of Aries. Sagittarius being the third fire sign from Aries, its ruler, Jupiter, influences the third decanate. The third decanate Arietans thus have the expansive, beneficent Jupiter as a secondary influence on their nature.

The complete tableau for Aries is thus Key 4, Key 16, Key 19 and Key 10. The Sun is exalted in Aries, so we have a double emphasis on that Key, as well as on Key 16. If you are an Aries, meditate on this tableau to help bring out the positive Arietan qualities in your nature. For everyone, working with this tableau will help awaken the Aries qualities in your consciousness. It will work, and it will work in an amazing manner. Your ability to reason, to bring order into your life, to become the ruler of your environment will be developed. Another ability it will give you is the advantage of better understanding the Aries type. Suppose you have had a disagreement with somebody who is an Aries. The first thing to do is to pull out this tableau. Meditate on the positive aspects. You can use the astrology wheel to help you to remember the basic qualities. Then you can extend it in your own thoughts. Bring up the meanings in your mind. Try to get tuned into this type of consciousness. You will be in a better position to understand and get along with the Arietan.

When one member got to the Emperor in our work and tried to color that Key, she became sick to her stomach. She couldn't seem to get beyond this point. She told Dr. Case about her problem and he asked her what conditions her closets and drawers were in at home. She looked at him in astonishment and said, "Packed and disorderly." He said, "This Tarot Key is related to order. No one can rule anything in his mind, emotions, or in his environment, until his thoughts and possessions are in order. It is because your environment is disorderly and you are, therefore, discordant with your Aries nature that you are having this problem. Go to work on that and see what happens." She did, and after that she was not only able to paint Tarot Key No. 4, but she developed an ability to handle - and rule - certain parts of her emotions that had been a tragic and lifelong problem to her.

So you see, there is a great deal of benefit to be derived from the esoteric aspects of astrology through the use of Tarot. Should any of you have certain problems or extra upsets in relation to any Tarot Key, it could be that there is some aspect of the positive qualities of the type of consciousness symbolized that you are not expressing well, or that you are expressing in reverse. Inasmuch as none of us are perfected human beings, none of us express all the positive qualities of any of the signs or forces. For this reason it is important for us to know what the negative aspects of the zodiacal types are, so that if we see them in ourselves or in others, we will be able to have a little more understanding. We will be able to say, "Certain astrological forces are affecting this person in such a way that they are making him or her act negatively." This is the first step towards perfection of relationships.

Not too long ago, a certain close acquaintance of mine was having a very difficult time with her husband. He seemed to have gone berserk! He apparently wanted to destroy everything he loved. Because of a knowledge of the esoteric elements that were involved and of the astrological forces that were functioning at the time, I was able to explain to the wife what was happening and what she could do to help him express more of the positive elements of his nature. I advised her to meditate upon his personal Tarot tableau in order to understand how he was feeling, and why. Before

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very long she was able to converse with him and discuss their problems more objectively. She could now help him because she had more understanding of his problem. In tuning in and meditating on his tableau, in understanding the impact of the energies that were bombarding him at the time, she was able to emanate towards him certain emotional elements that were positive. Since everyone really longs to be understood and accepted, he responded to her help.

We have not gone into the negative aspects of the Aries nature to any great extent because there is always the danger that you will start looking for them in others or yourself and thereby stimulate their expression. It is, however, important to recognize them in order to get along with the Aries type. For instance, the Aries type does not like to take orders from others. So if you want to get along with them, do not give them direct commands. It is not that they are unreasonable. They will cooperate with you from beginning to end if you approach them tactfully. If you make a request and tell them why you would like this or that done, you will get a great deal of cooperation. But don't go into too much detail when you tell them why, because another thing that annoys the Aries type is long-winded, detailed explanations. Make your explanations short and to the point. Otherwise, they will snap back at you with great bluntness and you'll think that they are the ones who are completely lacking in tact. Patience is just something that the Aries type does not possess in great abundance. But, as we have stated previously, the positive qualities of all the signs can be developed by any type of consciousness. This is the work we are taking up in this course.

For this week we will be concentrating on developing the positive aspects of the Aries type of consciousness. We will be working to develop initiative, rulership of our emotions and thoughts, orderliness, an abundance of energy, and the development of mental or inner vision.

TECHNIQUE

Place the Aries tableau before you (Keys 4, 16, 19 and 10, in that order). Quickly review in your mind the basic type of consciousness, or force, depicted by each card. The first Key in this case is the type of consciousness, and the following three are the universal forces that are blended and intermingled in the Aries type. As you meditate on the Tableau, mentally permeate yourself with red and concentrate on Key 4, the Aries personality. Mentally affirm that you are going to express in your personality the positive qualities of Aries in every aspect of your life. You are going to be ruler of your thoughts, your emotions and your environment as you are truly destined to be. Next, concentrate on Key 16, the Mars force, to stimulate activity and drive in your nature. Feel the universal drive, or will force, enter your aura. Then meditate on Key 19 and feel the One Ego, the one conscious energy of our solar system permeating your aura. Go next to Key 10 and feel the expansive, beneficent Jupiter force filling you and attuning you to the order of the cosmos.

AFFIRMATION

Through me the driving force of the universe finds its highest expression. I am at one with the Ego of all humanity and attuned to the order of the cosmos. Thus do I express, through my personality, the perfect control, the enlightened vision, and the orderly environment symbolized by the Emperor. ##

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Lesson Twenty-nine

TAURUS (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

The natives of Taurus, born between April 20 and May 20, inclusive, are determined, practical and dutiful. Thoroughness is also one of their main characteristics. In whatever they undertake, once their course of action is decided upon, they persist in spite of every obstacle and heedless of all opposition.

Fundamentally they have a kind, friendly and affectionate disposition. Yet kindly as they are, they are set in their ways and opinions. When they have accepted an idea, they cling to it, and it is hard to convince them that they have made a mistake. At the same time, they have an innate love of justice and truth, so that when one has accomplished the by no means easy task of changing their views, they readily acknowledge their mistakes and spare no pains to rectify the consequences of their errors.

Taurus people are not usually very brilliant students in childhood and youth. Yet they often go farther than natives of some other signs, simply because they are so persistent. The same thing applies to their business activities. They make haste slowly and are often thought to be mere plodders; but by the time they are between forty and fifty, they often have a good deal to show for their labor. They are great lovers of comfort and abhor physical pain. Yet their love of comfort often brings them the very pain they dread and hate because they live "not wisely, but too well". They are endowed by nature with abundant vitality, but unless they learn early to direct their energy wisely, they often go to excess in work or play and suffer the consequence. And they love to eat, as a rule. Their sense of taste is highly developed (many tea-tasters and wine-tasters are natives of Taurus), and the typical Taurean is always familiar with the names and flavors of expensive foodstuffs. Plover's eggs and terrapin, caviar and pate de foie gras, are seldom mere names to them. Thus they frequently suffer from digestive troubles, enlargement of the liver and kidney ailments.

The remedy is to inculcate in them, while they are children, the intelligent and scientific use of food. They have good sense to understand the principles of correct eating, provided those principles are made clear and vividly linked up with appeals to their desire for comfort. Mere prohibition of this or that will not convince them. But if a little care is taken to make them see that sensible eating will make them physically comfortable, they will adopt, and persist in, a course of self-control which often is more thorough than that followed by people who are far less susceptible to the pleasures of taste.

As a rule, Taureans are more or less averse to exercise. Thus, as middle life approaches, they have to be on guard against overweight. Here, again, if they can be persuaded that exercise will keep them fit and comfortable, they will persist until they have accomplished surprising results. Ordinarily, they are placid and good-natured. They hate to give offense, and are slow to take it. They dislike argument, and are pained by disagreements among their friends. Even the sham battles of debate which some people enjoy disturb them. Yet when their own settled convictions are attacked, they will defend them stoutly, with a great many words. And though they are slow to anger, their rage is fearfully destructive when it is aroused. Then

they "see red", and it was for their cyclonic anger that the phrase "mad as a bull" must have been coined.

When highly developed, the natives of Taurus are very intuitive. This is hinted at in the attribution of Intuition and Triumphant and Eternal Intelligence to the letter Vau, and to the 5th Key of the Tarot. Theirs is true intuition, and it is always a manifestation of the Hidden Force of which the Emerald Tablet says: "Its power is integrating, if it be turned into earth." For it is the inner perception of eternal truths, which are the same yesterday, today, and forever. And this perception always takes concrete, definite form. It is constructive. It leads to new combinations of forces and materials. In its highest aspects it leads to new combinations of the materials provided by human life. Thus highly developed Taureans are often found in executive positions where the activities of human beings are welded together in some great undertaking. Natives of this sign, indeed, often make good executives, for they are absolutely dependable, and not easily swayed from the main issue. Furthermore, they are reserved and secretive. They can keep their own counsel and are to be trusted in all confidential matters.

Their love of comfort makes them long for a home where they can be surrounded by everything they love. Taurus women display considerable taste in furnishing and decorating a house, and interior decoration is one thing at which they frequently make a success. Under the influence of their planetary ruler, Venus, Taureans are lovers of the beautiful. According to the degree of their development, to be sure, their standards vary considerably. But the desire for beauty is a strong motive in them all, and when its manifestations are garish and gaudy, the desire is no different from that which finds expression in a more cultivated taste.

Many actors and actresses, and many people engaged in amusement enterprises are found in this sign. So are people who engage in businesses which make for the increase of comfort and luxury. From confectioners and proprietors of beauty shops, up to dealers in the finest products of art, you will find natives of Taurus active in supplying whatever appeals to the senses, to love of luxury, to the desire for comfort, and to the spread of beauty. This is by no means so far from the implications of the 5th Key of the Tarot as might be supposed. The Hierophant is the revealer of secrets and the expounder of mysteries. He is also the genius of true religion. This is something altogether different from theology; altogether different, too, from the gloomy interpretations of life which often usurp the place of true religion. Whenever true religion is an active influence in human society, art flourishes, too. And affiliates of the B.O.T.A. should never forget that Beauty is the central idea of the Hebrew Wisdom on which Tarot is based.

Science is primarily analytical. It takes things to pieces. It botanizes and dissects. Art is synthetic. Even the practical arts, such as give us electric lights, and skyscrapers and automobiles, are fundamentally inseparable from the fine arts. Because we are passing through a transition stage in this mechanical era, this truth has been lost sight of by many manufacturers of the countless things we use. Every year that passes, however, is full of indications that the better adapted a thing is for the uses to which it must be put, the more beautiful must be its structure and outline. Ugly things are weak things. Our eye for beauty is really an eye for strength. Thus the Taurean love of the beautiful, its desire for comfort and luxury, when properly directed, become the foundations of real power, of a truly ox-like strength. True bodily comfort, for example, which every Taurean craves, is to be experienced only in a healthy organism. Physical efficiency and physical comfort are inseparable. So are physical efficiency and a good complexion, a clear eye, a vibrant voice, and a

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beautiful bodily outline. What is true here is true in every phase of human life. All art that is great is the expression of real strength, of real virility. And the highest art expresses those profound intuitions of reality which can only be experienced by the man or woman whose body, purified by obedience to the laws of life, responds to life-vibrations that pass unperceived by the grosser, less finely organized, and consequently less effective and less beautiful, bodies of the ordinary run of humanity.

The Taurean Sub-types

People born between April 20 and April 30, inclusive, are the most typical Taureans. In their lives the influence of Venus, as your chart shows, is doubly active because it rules both the sign and the subdivision corresponding to these dates. The key-words for this part of the sign are given in the chart as: devoted, artistic, and sympathetic. Natives of this sub-type are often intensely religious, although they may take up some unusual cult or sect. Sometimes they have considerable psychic ability, often in the way of clairaudience or psychic hearing. Their senses of taste and touch are frequently very acute. They are very emotional, feeling things deeply and being somewhat subject to the psychic atmosphere of other people and of places. They should be careful in the selection of friends and particular in their choice of places to live. Ugly surroundings depress them and sometimes bring on actual illness.

Those born between May 1 and May 10, inclusive, are not quite so emotional. The scientific and intellectual influence of the Mercury vibration is in their case blended with the artistic and sensuous Venus. They are more deliberate, and the constructive power of Mercury (hinted at in the fact that in the Hebrew alphabet this vibration is associated with the letter named "house") is marked in their temperament. The chart also says that they are conservative, but you should not interpret this as meaning reactionary. They are conservative in the sense that they seek to extract all possible values from life, in that they seek to put all their possessions and abilities to the best possible use, avoiding waste like a pestilence.

Those born from May 11 to May 20, inclusive, have the restrictive influence of the Saturn vibration mingled with that of Venus. They are often mistaken by beginners in astrology for natives of the sign Capricorn. Their temperament is described in the chart as "stoical, persevering and firm". Persevering it surely is, and firm. But although it is hard to find a better epithet than stoical, it will not do to interpret their silence and their uncomplaining attitude as indicating that they believe, as the Stoics did, in deprivation and hardship as being a desirable form of spiritual athletics. These Taureans of the third sub-type can put up with hardship to attain an end, but they resent the hardship. No matter what they endure, they endure it as an evil to be borne, until it can be overcome, never as something which they believe to be good for their souls. They do not complain, because they see the futility of complaint, and do not wish to waste their energy. But they always hope for a way out, and work firmly and persistently towards the solution of their difficulties, animated by the same fundamental desire for comfort and beauty that inspires all natives of Taurus.

Typical Taureans are usually short and stocky, but this is by no means an invariable characteristic. A more dependable physical indication of this sign is the short, strong neck, supporting a head usually carried a little forward, as if the shoulders were sustaining a weight. The lobe of the ear is often full, and the nose is usually short, and sometimes stubby. A typical Taurean feature is their walk. They plant their heels first and rather heavily. The physical characteristics enumerated, however, are those belonging to relatively pure types.

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The diseases of Taurus, for which the color of the sign, Red-Orange, and the tone C-sharp are indicated, are: Affections of the throat, palate, larynx and tonsils, neck, lower jaw, ears and occipital region. The cerebellum is also governed by Taurus, as are the vertebrae of the neck and the great veins and arteries in that region. The tableau for this sign, to develop its vibration and mental qualities, is: Key 5 (Taurus), Key 3 (Venus), Key 1 (Mercury, ruling second decanate), Key 21 (Saturn, ruling third decanate), and Key 2 (Moon, exalted in Taurus). ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty

TAURUS (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

In this lesson we are going to take up the Taurus astrological tableau as used with Tarot. Key No. 5, the Hierophant, is assigned to Taurus. The next key in the tableau is the Empress, Key No. 3, assigned to the planet Venus. Venus is not only the ruler of all of Taurus, but it rules the first decanate as well. The decanate rulers add particular colorations that blend with the sign ruler to make subtle differences in psychological types. Each of the three decanates are influenced by the rulers of the other signs in the same triplicity. Taurus, as you know, belongs to the Earth triplicity. Though it is very little understood in exoteric astrology, the four elements are definitely involved with the four levels of being, the four Qabalistic worlds, the four archangels, the angels and the elemental beings. Each really symbolizes types and levels of consciousness.

Because Venus rules the first decanate of Taurus, as well as the whole sign, those born in the first ten degrees are double Venus Taureans. The second ten degrees have Venus as their ruler, but Mercury as their sub-ruler, so Tarot Key No. 1 is the next Tarot Key in our Taurus tableau. The third decanate is sub-ruled by Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn, and second Earth sign from Taurus, and Key No. 21 is the next in our tableau. To complete the tableau, we add Tarot Key No. 2, the High Priestess, symbolizing the Moon, which is exalted in Taurus. What is meant by exaltation is that the highest degree of development in that type of consciousness can be attained under this vibration. The characteristics and spiritual aspects of the human being which pertain to the planet thus exalted are more easily attained here. Remember, we are all the entire zodiac. There is no particular sign which does not affect us. When an astrologer makes up a natal chart, he sets up the entire astrological wheel; he doesn't leave out any one of the zodiacal signs. He places Mars, which is really your activity nature, in the sign it was transiting at the time of your birth. He places Mercury, your intellectual nature, in its appropriate sign. What astrological sign these planets occupied at the time of your birth affects this aspect of your nature. A person may be born with the Sun in Taurus. This means that the basic individuality will naturally express through those psychological characteristics that we call Taurus, but Mercury may be in Aries; therefore his intellectual faculties will function more through the colorations which have to do with the psychological attributes of Aries, as mixed with the things that the intellect basically is. The Sun might be in Taurus, but Venus might be way across in Scorpio; therefore the emotional nature, the love nature, will be interpreted through the colorations of the sign Scorpio.

We all have planets, usually in many different signs. We also, necessarily, have signs which are occupied by no planets. Even this does not mean that that part of the nature isn't functioning. Every sign of the zodiac has a planetary ruler, and when no planet is posited in that sign, we go to the ruler of the sign to understand that part of our nature. This ruler, of course, then, is in some other sign. Therefore the characteristics of the sign in which no planet is posited will express in us in a special way colored by the sign in which its ruler is posited.

We talk about telepathy a great deal. What we do not realize is that one of the reasons telepathy functions as it does is because we all have within us all of the elements that everyone else has. Some elements are more highly developed; others are

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still functioning on a very immature level. Nevertheless, we have all the aspects within us. If they are undeveloped, then that is more reason why we need to concentrate and meditate on all of the tableaux to bring the undeveloped parts alive in our consciousness. We have come back over and over again from incarnation to incarnation. We have been all of the signs of the zodiac innumerable times. We have been going round and round, but not in one spot. It is a spiral motion, a climbing spiral. We keep working on perfecting all these elements, all these signs within us.

In exoteric astrology there is a great deal of forecasting in relation to a chart. The thing to remember is that the more on the mass mind level a human being is, the more easily can an astrologer prognosticate for him. When he is on this level it is relatively simple to ascertain what is going to happen to him, because he is not likely to vary much from the norm in his reactions to the astrological forces. However, if someone has started a definite and determined rise in consciousness through occult study, he will be more individualistic and be not so likely to follow the conventionalisms of the masses. The more highly evolved a human being is, the less can one prognosticate about his future, because he has developed more rulership of himself and his destiny. Therefore, to the degree that we gain control of our inner make-up, our reactions, our responses . . . to that degree are we free from the repercussions of certain cosmic energies. We will have all sorts of experiences, but the measure in which we react is what determines what the outcome is going to be. Please do not permit yourselves to become suggestible in relation to certain aspects of astrology. If you have been trained to feel, for instance, that Saturn is a malefic and is going to bring you burdens and heavy responsibilities when it aspects your chart, then it will, because you will be feeding a destructive idea.

Let's analyze Taurus in conjunction with Tarot, and then tie it in with the astrological ideas as understood by the esoteric schools of Wisdom. Taurus is the fixed Earth sign. We have seen it pictured in Keys No. 10 and 21 as the Bull. In Qabalah the bull, or ox, is assigned to the Fool, who symbolizes the highest superconscious levels. Qabalah relates superconsciousness with the Earth. What does this tell us? It tells us that people make a great mistake when they disparage Earth. The wild dreamer, who does nothing but dream, accomplishes nothing. The people who sit and meditate, but fail to take these meditations out into their lives and accomplish a change in and on earth, have missed the point. It is only as things are changed on the physical plane that we have proof of the workings of truly spiritual principles. Many schools of thought and unhappy religions teach their followers to scorn the body, have contempt for all that is physical, and lift their hearts only to spiritual matters. In other words, they separate the so-called spiritual from the so-called physical. The Hierophant, who is assigned to Taurus, fixed Earth, and also to superconscious intuition, says something very different.

Taurus rules the ears, the throat, larynx and tongue. The higher aspects of Taurus refer to inner hearing. This does not mean psychic hearing. Inner hearing is something above and beyond that. Psychic hearing can get you into a lot of trouble, whereas the true intuitive hearing is really another order of experience. Thus we find true intuition assigned to Taurus. Taurus is also the second sign that rules money in mundane astrology. The Taurus type is said to be stubborn, earthy, materialistic and self-indulgent. These, of course, are the negative things that are said of Taureans. Every sign has both negative and positive responses. Whereas the very lowly evolved Taurean might be materialistic, a highly evolved Taurean certainly will not be. He will be, indeed, exactly the reverse. He will be intuitive and so spiritually oriented that it will be a matter of the utmost importance to him that his intuitive perceptions be washed down to earth and made available to his fellow man. Taurus symbolizes intuition made manifest.

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There is a very great difference in all of the signs between the high and low types. Actually, of course, we react to the highest parts of our sign at times, and at other times to what appear to be its very lowest aspects. We can learn to hold our consciousness to the positive expression - to the positive outer manifestation of our astrological types - through work with these tableaux. This outer manifestation has to do with the integration mentioned in the Tablet of Hermes. The Tarot Tableaus we are giving you for each of the zodiacal types are related to their positive expression. Many of us are already well along the path, but we need the help of these extra intensive and long time hidden techniques to help us in our progress. They are very powerful and must never be overdone. It is also very important to take special periods with each of the Tableaus.

Intuition is something that many misunderstand. One of the great problems is that those who are psychic get the idea of psychism and intuition mixed up. We want to point out to you that one of the basic differences between a psychic message and an intuitive message is the content. A psychic message will usually try to flatter you and get you to follow orders. A true intuitive message gives you basic principles for your spiritual growth. True intuition comes only to those human beings who have developed enough insight through the meditative processes to practice discrimination. Even though such human beings may not have overcome all their negative habit patterns and biases, they will at least be aware that they are there to overcome and will not be so at the mercy of these patterns and prejudices, nor be so likely to rationalize them as intuition. The Taurus nature has the quality that can instantly discern the false from the true because of their ability to develop true intuition. And they can more easily develop the ability to discern the difference between hate which goes under the guise of spiritual teaching, and true spiritual teaching.

In Key No. 5 we have two figures kneeling before the Hierophant. These two figures relate to desire and knowledge. The really highly evolved Taurean nature is ready to kneel before the Inner Teacher, the Higher Self. Meditating on the Taurus tableau helps us to develop oneness, humility, and willingness to give up our false interpretations of life, our false knowledge, our negative and foolish desires, so that we can bring the true heaven down to earth. Never forget, Earth is the cloak of God, and is not to be looked down upon as something unspiritual.

Venus is the ruler of Taurus, Key No. 3 in Tarot, the Empress. Notice the shield she holds. This is an important aspect of the entire Taurean nature that we all need to develop in ourselves. Her shield is shaped like a heart, and that means love. The dove of peace is across it. Love does bring peace. Hate brings the opposite. The Empress is fertile. When you start receiving true intuition, you become fertile and start growing in your garden all of the beautiful things that bring fulfillment.

To return to our Taurus tableau, you will remember that the first decanate, or Venus type, is said to be devoted, artistic and sympathetic. This first grouping in the Taurean nature is to bring to our awareness the basic good will towards all things and all beings. Let's remember that to develop true intuition the first thing we need to do is to start using love and acceptance toward all creatures and all situations. We need to develop the basic feeling that all creatures are special, wonderful, unique manifestations of the One Life. Thus can we give all creatures a certain reverence, whether they are to be close associates of ours or not, whether their personality aspects mingle well with ours or not.

Those born in the next ten degrees, under the sub-rulership of Mercury, are called deliberative, constructive and conservative. Mercury is assigned to attention in Tarot. Attention is being here and now. We can see how it ties in with the ideas of

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the Earth sign Taurus. Being attentive to the physical universe is what evolves our awareness and makes us more capable of proper meditation. It helps us to develop the ability to hear the Inner Voice. If we walk down the street with our heads in the clouds, we are not being attentive to the manifestations of life. We are not really being alive. Wherever we are, whatever we do, we need to learn to be attentive. Attention is the beginning of concentration (Mercury Key No. 1). Learning to concentrate develops little by little the ability to enter into a true meditative state. The reports of the physical senses are what give us the vital pictures that develop the intensive emotions we need in order to receive intuitional reports. Many erroneously think that they have to get rid of their emotions to attain higher spiritual states. That is committing spiritual suicide. Only when you care is your concentration going to be deep enough to overcome mind wandering. When you care, you are able to really concentrate. You have all probably experienced this type of concentration. When you are in love, you care, and nothing can stop your concentration on the beloved. This type of concentration on what is going on around us will develop our intellect to an astonishing degree. When you work with the ideas that deal with the Magician, you are working with those ideas that are going to develop intellect.

The third decanate Taurean, under the sub-rulership of Saturn, is said to be stoical, persevering and firm. Saturn, in exoteric astrology, is very much feared as the oppressor and frustrater. In our work we show you Saturn in a more accurate light. As you know, the planet Saturn is assigned to the dancer in Key No. 21. It shows you that the definite measured control of the dance is the true function of Saturn. Every kind of dance, or song, or any accomplishment, is attained through disciplines. Saturn is like the loving mother teaching her child through discipline. We must develop a special attitude towards that which holds us down and frustrates us. We must learn to see restrictive circumstances as the compression of energy within us that helps bring us stability and strength, giving us the capacity to experience the Inner Voice. Usually that which we think is frustration has as its basis the actual love, the Venus quality, which is the primary ruler of the Taurus Tableau. It is important to see Saturn as that which develops true grace and strength, symbolized in Taurus, the first Earth sign, as the strong, stable bull.

The Moon is exalted in Taurus, so it completes our tableau. The Moon is symbolized in Tarot by Key No. 2, the High Priestess. Remember, the Moon is assigned to subconsciousness. Subconsciousness holds the memory patterns of everything we have ever been, every way we have ever reacted. As we have said, exaltation in a sign means that that particular type of expression finds its highest development through the qualities of the sign in which it is exalted. It doesn't mean that those who have the Moon in Taurus have the most highly evolved subconscious mind responding to the highest intuitive levels. What it does mean is that if people happen to have the Moon in Taurus, they can more easily and more readily effect the transmutations of subconsciousness that can lead to true intuitive guidance. We all want to be the entire tableau of every one of the signs. When we work with this tableau, we can develop this exaltation of subconsciousness, this transmutation of all the hates and misinformation that have held us back. It is our subconsciousness which stands in the way of true intuitive perceptions and guidance. It is what we have registered in subconsciousness that brings us all of our difficulties. Our deepest problems and sorrows come from that part of our nature which is still clinging to the old habit patterns and prejudices.

The basic Taurean nature is not easily changed. They have a tendency to cling to their ideas with dogged stability. But once you have proven to them that they are wrong, they are quite willing to give up their pet prejudices. As long as our reactions are emotional, we have not transmuted that area of subconsciousness. The way to tell

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how biased a person is about a situation or idea is to watch how emotional he becomes in relation to a discussion regarding it. You can use this yardstick on yourself, too. Watch your own emotional reactions and you will discover just how biased you are in certain areas. It doesn't always mean that you do not have the proper reaction, but if they are arrived at through prejudice or propaganda, you are not using your reasoning faculty. You are not expressing Kingship of mind and heart. You have not evaluated your responses with proper objectivity. Without this objective evaluation we are not responding consciously with the higher nature and will not bring the positive results in terms of transmutation of subconsciousness. We all must get our subconsciousness exalted in our Taurean nature. We must open the inner gates of our minds and hearts to true intuition.

By meditating on each of these tableaux, you will be awakening the positive elements of that part of your nature. Use this Taurus tableau to develop your ability to receive the true intuition that will transform your life here on earth and guide you to ever higher levels of spiritual attainment.

TECHNIQUE

Place the Taurus Tableau in front of you, reviewing as before the basic type of consciousness or universal force therein depicted. The first Key in these tableaux is always the type of consciousness and the following Keys are the universal forces (planets) that are being expressed and co-mingled. First permeate yourself with Red-Orange, intone the note C#, and meditate on Key No. 5, the Hierophant. You are thus opening yourself to the development and understanding of the positive qualities of this type. You are developing your intuitive faculties and your ability to bring them down to earth. Next concentrate in turn on Key No. 3, No. 1, No. 21, and No. 2. Image their colors and intone their notes. Endeavor to see how the expression of love and desire (Key 3), attention (Key 1), limitation (Key 21), and repetition (Key 2) are fundamental elements of a well-developed, intuitive faculty.

AFFIRMATION

True intuition is the fruit of love. Because I care, I concentrate my attention, bringing more love into my field of influence. I know that limitation is but the necessary framework for overcoming error. Thus does my subconsciousness become an ever clearer channel for the Wisdom from Above. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-one

GEMINI (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Gemini, the Twins, is the third sign of the zodiac. It is the Individuality sign of people born between May 21 and June 19, inclusive. It is one of the four mutable, or common, signs. These common signs are all mental in quality, and their natives are characterized by adaptability.

In that section of the astrological chart containing the name, symbol, color and musical note corresponding to Gemini, you will find also the symbol Δ . It represents the element AIR. The same symbol is associated with the Fool, because Δ really stands for the cosmic Life-Breath, or Spirit, which Hebrews call Ruach (R V Ch), Hindus term Prana, and Greeks name Pneuma. The attribution of this symbol Δ to the Fool indicates that the influence of the Cosmic Life-Breath is powerful in all the airy signs of the zodiac. In all the airy signs, too, the mental qualities of Uranus find their best expression. In them, again, the Fiery Intelligence of Superconsciousness has a very potent influence.

This you see, of course, when you look at the picture of the Lovers, where the airy and fiery quality of the Life-Breath is portrayed by the Angel. Moreover, the Lovers represent the type of consciousness called "Disposing Intelligence"; and what I want you particularly to understand at this point is that the Disposing Intelligence is really superconsciousness, is really identical with Fiery Intelligence. In other words, in the sixth Key the Disposing Intelligence is represented by the angel and his influence. It is manifested through and by the personal aspects of the Life-Power symbolized by the Man and the Woman.

When we say that a person has fine discrimination, we really mean that he is an unusually unobstructed channel for the superconscious knowledge represented by the Fool, and by the angel in the sixth Key. In other words, discrimination is not a personal quality. It is a cosmic, or superconscious, quality which finds outlet through human personality. One does not acquire discrimination. As the personal vehicle becomes more finely organized, it expresses finer and finer degrees of discrimination. The Discriminator is the One Self, the true I AM. Since the beginning of the cycle of manifestation in which we have our being now, there has never been one moment when the Self lacked knowledge of the least detail of the life-process. Nor has there ever been a moment when the Self did not possess perfect understanding of the meaning of the ALL. When a man or a woman shows ability to make nice distinctions, the perfect discrimination of the Life-Power simply radiates THROUGH that person.

Bearing this in mind, you can understand why Mercury is the ruler of Gemini. Transparency (symbolized by the Magician) is the basis for all personal expression of the Disposing Intelligence. The dominant thing about Gemini people is the transmissive quality associated with the Magician. What the Magician represents is NOT creative power. It is not originality. He is a herald, an announcer, a messenger; but he heralds something higher than himself, announces the presence of something greater than he, delivers a message of which he is not the author. He builds and arranges, as the letter Beth (the House) hints, and as the symbolism of the first Key shows; but he builds with materials already present, and arranges and relates the manifestations of something above and beyond himself.

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Even the key-words of the sign Gemini take this into account. They are: Intellectual, inquiring, dualistic. Intellect examines what already is, in order to discover relationships. It inquires into the meaning of experience, and this attitude of inquiry supposes ignorance at the outset of the investigation. We inquire because we don't know. (This will help you to understand why the Devil, type of bondage and ignorance, is at the bottom of the row of three Keys headed by the Magician. Even so, ignorance is the ground, or basis, of inquiry.) Inquiry finds itself stimulated by a world full of apparent contradictions. Contrasts and oppositions are everywhere, which intellect seeks to reconcile.

Thus the typical Gemini person is continually asking "Why?" The best of them have the truly scientific mind. Mediocre Gemini personalities are more superficial, though often great readers. But their attention is quickly diverted by new interests. Before they have solved one puzzle, life shows them another, and so they never really learn the answers to any. Singleness of purpose, and practice in concentration, are therefore indispensable for Gemini natives.

The dualism of the sign is clearly indicated by its symbol, which you will find in the chart. It closely resembles the Roman numeral II. Some say it originally represented the Roman dieties, Castor and Pollux. I presume it is far more ancient. What it clearly indicates is similarity combined with difference. True discrimination shows us the subtle differences between similar things. Difference must not be confused with separateness. Ability to perceive it is the mark of mental greatness. No mental power is better worth developing. Relatively few people have unfolded any high degree of this power. We are continually deceived by resemblances, and when we make progress in any field, it is largely because we have learned to distinguish differences. Gemini people are able by training to accomplish marvels in this direction. They are by nature apt at nice discrimination and classification. They can see both sides of a question, and while this sometimes makes them somewhat hesitant in arriving at decisions, it also prevents them from rushing headlong into action without taking into consideration the pros and cons of a matter.

Because they perceive differences, they can usually express themselves well. They make nice distinctions of meaning in their choice of words. Thus they usually study the dictionary and have a fine vocabulary. Often they are good writers and, generally, entertaining speakers. While they are in a company, conversation seldom lags. If sometimes they do rather more than their share of talking, they are seldom bores, because they always have some new point of view to present which other people have not noticed. Thus their apparent monopoly of a conversation is generally due to the fact that others gladly listen to what they have to say. This, however, applies only to the highly developed types of Gemini people. The undeveloped ones are often intolerable chatterboxes.

They learn easily and usually have good memories. Moreover, whatever they know seems to be instantly available. This enables them to make wonderfully effective use of a small store of knowledge. Their fault is that they learn so easily that they may become superficial. Sometimes they are a trifle — occasionally more than a trifle — lax about verifying what they have heard or read. As public speakers, therefore, they are always plausible and interesting, convincing in argument, but sometimes not quite dependable in their statements of supposed fact.

In appearance the natives of Gemini usually give the impression of alertness. Their eyes have a brilliant look, with that inquiring expression one sees in the eyes of birds. When the sign is rising, the body is tall and slender, and the arms and

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legs are long, while the hands are fine with long fingers. The bodily movements are quick, and the facial expression is continually changing with the play of thought and emotion. Gemini rules the arms and hands, shoulders, lungs, collarbones and upper ribs. Afflictions in this sign of the zodiac cause pulmonary diseases, pneumonia, pleurisy, asthma, bronchitis, and nervous affections of the region ruled by the sign. Neuritis in the arms or hands is included in this category. For normal function in the region of the body governed by Gemini, the color Orange is indicated, and the musical tone D-natural. Gemini people need plenty of sunlight and fresh air and should have sufficient light exercise. They need also to pay particular attention to the matter of correct posture.

Clerical work, writing, correspondence, scientific research, public speaking, teaching, salesmanship, newspaper reporting, literary criticism, and all similar work is congenial to the Gemini type. Teaching is perhaps the least congenial if it involves too much repetition and routine, or if it ties one down to one place too steadily. For Gemini natives like changes of scene and usually find themselves happiest in work that enables them to move from place to place a good deal, gives them opportunity to make new acquaintances continually, and provides considerable variety of experiences on which they can exercise their inquiring minds. Dull routine work is not for them, nor should they attempt to be executives, for executives often have to make quick, snap judgments, and Gemini people, though agile of mind and often quick in thought and action, do not commonly arrive easily at decisions.

The Gemini Sub-types

People born between May 21 and May 29, inclusive, are the most characteristic Gemini types. They are often literary, and they can usually do a number of different things very well. It is not uncommon for them to be engaged in at least two kinds of business at once. Often, when they are in conversation, they are doing some sort of routine mechanical work, like sewing or knitting, or among men, whittling or some other such light work. Their minds are very acute, and they usually see all that is going on in their immediate vicinity. Mercury (the Magician) is their special ruler.

Those born between May 30 and June 8, inclusive, are rather more artistic than the natives of the first sub-type. They have more feeling in their make-up, too, and are not so purely intellectual. They are distinguished for kindness and sympathy. Usually they have fine manners, and their speech and writing are exceptionally polished. Venus (the Empress) is their particular ruler.

Natives of the third Gemini sub-type, born between June 9 and June 19, inclusive, have about them a subtle something which arrests attention. They are somewhat more secretive than the natives of the other two sub-types of this sign. They are also more original. Often they are interested in history, in antiques, and also in inventions. They are very adaptable, both to persons and surroundings. Thus they can get along with almost anybody and can make themselves comfortable in almost any environment. Their special rulers are Saturn (the World) and Uranus (the Fool).

To develop in yourself the positive qualities of the Gemini type, use the following Tarot Keys: No. 6, No. 1, No. 3, No. 21, and No. 0. Use this sequence during the coming week as a special exercise. Use it, whether Gemini is your sign or not. It will develop in you an understanding of the Gemini characteristics, and it will also bring out from your subconsciousness the special mental qualifications which are emphasized in the natives of Gemini. Are you keeping a notebook for your own discoveries about Tarot? Better begin this week then. That sort of work builds brains. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-two

GEMINI (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

In this lesson we will gain insight into the Gemini nature. As with all the tableaux, we must remember that to complete ourselves, the entire zodiac must be balanced within our personalities. The techniques given with these lessons are developing our abilities to express the positive qualities connected with each sign, thereby developing wholeness in ourselves and understanding of others. We will also become acquainted with the negative traits connected with each sign. By understanding that these qualities may also be present in an individual, we will not be as likely to react adversely to others. We will be in a better position to understand them and thus control our emotional responses to their personalities. With this basic understanding of others, we can have sufficient rapport to better control the usual resentments and irritations that so often plague our human relationships.

Gemini is the first of what are called the common or mutable signs. Actually it means adaptable, or changeable. In our previous tableaux we have had Aries as the first of the cardinal signs and Taurus as the first of the fixed signs. Gemini, in turn, is the first of the four adaptable signs. The Gemini nature, because it is very adaptable, can under certain impacts and conditions be too changeable. Adaptability is necessary, but over-emphasized in the nature it can express as an inability to focus and concentrate enough to accomplish anything. There is an exaggerated story about the extreme Gemini nature that expresses this quality delightfully. Mrs. Gemini awakens in the morning, jumps out of bed and runs to the kitchen. "Oh dear," she says, "I forgot to wash the dishes last night." She starts to wash the dishes only to find that she left the soap in the laundry room. She goes into the laundry room to get the soap and discovers she overlooked hanging out the last batch of clothes she had washed yesterday. She puts the clothes in the basket and goes outside to hang them up. Immediately she sees a plant in the garden that must have some water. She puts down the basket and goes over to turn on the water. By the time the day is done, our little Gemini has had a most active day, but has accomplished very little. Of course, we must be able to adapt, but we must have control of the adaptability in our nature, or it can frustrate our accomplishments. You can see adaptability is necessary, because evolution itself has come about because consciousness was able to adapt itself and change its organism in terms of the changes that took place on the planet itself. Everything requires adaptability, or there is no survival at all.

In matters of love the Gemini type may seem to those of a more fixed nature to be shallow. They seem to have the ability to fall in and out of love a thousand times. Carried too far, this could lead to promiscuity. On the other hand, those who lack this quality of adaptability in relationships are more apt to hang on to an unhealthy relationship that impairs their evolutionary progress.

The human being who gains understanding is the one who gains discrimination, which is one of the characteristics of Tarot Key No. 6, the Lovers, assigned in Tarot to Gemini. The Gemini native, being one of the intellectual types, has enough mentality and ability to weigh, measure and discriminate, so that if something goes wrong with a love relationship, or a job, or whatever, he is able to say, "Oh well, that just wasn't the one for me. I'll try again." Should we criticize this? They are adapting. They may be going further, faster, than the one who sits around for twenty years bemoaning the man or woman they lost or that they cannot give up in spite of dreadful miseries and sorrows.

The ruler of this sign, Mercury, is the Magician in Tarot. The Magician is assigned to self-consciousness, the power of attention and perception. Our modern psychologists contend that one important sign of intelligence is curiosity. He who lacks curiosity cannot even begin to have a real mentality. The child developing his mind touches everything, asking why, why? This is the Gemini nature, whether it be the immature or the very-well-developed, highly-evolved one. Every Gemini will want to know "why?". The Gemini who is not very mature will be curious about some very strange things. The highly developed one, who has gained insight and understanding, will be one of the most inventive and one of the most unusually tolerant human beings you can imagine.

The Gemini nature also loves to talk. The immature type will talk incessantly about nothing, while the well developed native will be sparkling, interesting and amusing. He has much of interest to say because his inquiring and curious mind has gathered information and sees things that most others have missed. In this connection we must all develop our Gemini nature, so that we will not miss the glory and beauty that is everywhere to see.

The key words for Gemini are intellectual, inquiring and dualistic. By dualistic is meant that the Gemini nature has the ability to see two sides of a question. Thus your Gemini type is far less apt to be bigoted than some of the other signs. There is a tremendous sense of justice because of this ability to see both sides. However, carried to an extreme, this leads to indecisiveness. When you can see only one side, there is no question of deciding — it decides you. So the basic Gemini must beware of indecisiveness. Seeing all the elements involved in any situation is, of course, very good, if one is at the same time able to reach a definite conclusion.

The other Gemini quality that can be carried too far is their ability to participate in many different activities at the same time. Unless handled very adeptly, this often results in nothing being finished or accomplished. On the other hand, the Gemini type would be very unhappy in vocations that require too much routine. They must have variety. Their minds are quick and they learn rapidly. With many Gemini this leads to their greatest problems. They learn so easily that they don't really get to the bottom of things. They can often give the impression of being quite brilliant and knowing many things. But unless they develop stability and the self-discipline necessary to get to the heart of things, their brilliance is all surface knowledge without the deep wisdom that comes with perception and understanding.

The Magician, ruler of Gemini, represents tremendous discipline. He is attention. He is concentration. This is the quality that sees into and through. The Magician is also the ruler of the first decanate of Gemini. The qualities listed for this decanate are literary, versatile and acute. These qualities also denote quick comprehension and keen attention. This ability to pay attention and quickly perceive differences is the fruit of an inquiring, curious mind. All of life, all of beauty, all of consciousness develops and expands as our ability and capacity to see differences expands. This does not mean separateness. It means appreciation of all of the varied aspects of the One. This is what develops self-consciousness. To discriminate between the me and the not me is the beginning of self-consciousness. All the pairs of opposites are involved in being aware. Male and female. Dark and light. Active and passive. Without awareness of differences, we couldn't have any awareness at all. It is this same principle brought into finer and finer distinction that brings enlarged self experience. This is why we must revere the differences that exist between all of us. God apparently loved diversity. Diversity is not separateness. I am one person, but I have hair, a nose, a mouth, etc. I have many elements that go into making me one person or one vehicle.

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The second decanate of Gemini is influenced by Venus, ruler of the next airy sign, Libra. This decanate adds the qualities of kindness, cleverness and polish. These qualities are really typical of Gemini as a whole. That is one reason why Tarot Key No. 6 is called the Lovers. This kindness is the fruit of discrimination. When we understand, we love. You might say you know a Gemini who is exactly the reverse. This is quite possible. Immature natives of any sign are likely to express qualities exactly opposite to the positive aspects. This does not imply immaturity in everything. We all have personality aspects that need development. In the case above cited, the lack is in the ability to discriminate differences accurately and thus understand others. The loving of life and the loving of people really has to do with gaining an understanding and acceptance of their various points of view.

The added qualities of the third decanate are: adaptable, intuitive and original. Your third decanate Gemini, along with all the previous influences, is ruled by the rulers of Aquarius — Saturn and Uranus. Unlike some schools of exoteric astrology, the esoteric teaching has retained the original rulers along with the New Age planets. The Masters who drew up the Tarot included Keys for the planets that were yet to be discovered by exoteric astronomers. The Masters knew that there were still areas of consciousness undeveloped in mankind. They knew that the physical representation or vehicle must be discovered in our solar system before it could become a part of our consciousness. When man's evolution reached a certain point, consciousness was evolved capable of developing telescopes that in turn made possible the discovery of the outer planets in the heavens that correlate with the newly developed areas of consciousness in man. Mass evolution had reached the point where it was possible to receive a new impact of forces. That is why and when it becomes consciously discovered. It ties right in with the whole principle of evolution in all its phases. When Uranus was discovered, careful study indicated its affinity for the zodiacal sign Aquarius. Thus it is the co-ruler with Saturn in our third decanate of Gemini. Saturn is retained because our Tradition holds with the idea that the original quality of consciousness involved is not eliminated when a new element is added. As you can see, in order to truly understand the Gemini nature, we must also understand the Aquarian nature and the Libran nature. Are you beginning to see why it is important to see and understand all of the signs?

TECHNIQUE

Place the Gemini Tableau before you (Keys No. 6, 1, 3, 21, and 0, in that order). As before, review the basic type of consciousness (Key No. 6) involved, and the universal forces that are blended in this type of consciousness (Keys 1 through 0). Permeate yourself with the Orange connected with Gemini, intone the note (D), and mentally affirm your desire to express the positive qualities of this type of consciousness. You are going to develop keen discrimination, easier comprehension, and the ability to see both sides of any question. Concentrate in turn, imaging the color and intoning the note, on each of the planetary forces involved in this type of consciousness. See how their proper proportion and balance will develop in you the positive qualities of the Gemini nature.

AFFIRMATION

Through fine discrimination, I am able to distinguish the proper functions of my conscious and my subconscious mind. My subconscious mind is free to attune to guidance from above. Through attention, imagination, limitation, and foresight, I have expanded my awareness and expanded my understanding of the problems of others. Thus have I developed the ability to embrace all of life. ##


ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-three

CANCER (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Cancer, the Crab, is the Individuality sign of people born between June 20 and July 23. It is one of the four cardinal signs of the zodiac, the other three being Aries, Libra and Capricorn. They are called cardinal signs because they correspond to the four cardinal points of the heavens. When the sun is in Aries, it reaches the easternmost point of its yearly journey; in Cancer it is farthest north, and from that point begins to go backward, like a crab; in Libra it reaches the extreme west; and in Capricorn it is at the point farthest south. People born when the Sun is in any of the four cardinal signs have more initiative and greater executive ability than the natives of other signs.

The circular astrological chart shows the inverted triangle , symbol of the element Water, in the place assigned to Cancer. The element of Water is assigned in Tarot to the Hanged Man. The Hanged Man also represents the planet Neptune and the attribution "Stable Intelligence". Review the interpretation of the Hanged Man given in Tarot Fundamentals. Then you will begin to understand why all three watery signs of the zodiac — of which Cancer is the first — are mystical and psychic in quality.

Stable Intelligence is the phase of consciousness working through all the watery signs, and the essence of Stable Intelligence is a realization of the total dependence of personality upon the cosmic life. Natives of watery signs feel their connection with the sum total of cosmic activities. Theirs is feeling, rather than intellectual perception. They have an inner sense of relationship to the ALL. In highly developed people, this grows into the true mystical experience symbolized by the Hanged Man. Natives of Cancer express this inner sense of connection with the whole of Universal activity as intense responsiveness to their surroundings. They feel the atmosphere of places. They often have no definite understanding of the significance of their impressions, but the impression itself is usually definite enough.

Usually they are great home lovers. Their sense of family solidarity is strong, to the point of clannishness. They are happiest in the midst of surroundings to which they are accustomed. Often they are very patriotic, and this feeling is simply an extension of their love of home. As key words for this sign, the chart gives: sensitive, tenacious, maternal. It may seem strange to use the word "maternal" to describe masculine natives of Cancer, but the adjective is really well chosen. Frequently men born in this sign are more maternal than their wives. They feel keenly the responsibilities of home and children. They find it perfectly natural to express themselves in ways which are essentially "motherly". This is true of many men who are not in the least degree effeminate.

Cancer people hate pain, and they dislike controversy. Their sensitive natures incline them to be retiring and quiet. At the same time, they frequently are found in positions of public trust, although usually these are positions which do not demand that they make very many contacts with the masses. Their dislike of pain makes them avoid physical danger whenever they can; but although they have less physical courage than most people, they often make up for it by great moral courage. There their tenacity shows itself. Let them be convinced that a cause is right, or that a principle is just, and they will defend their convictions to the last ditch.

With the Moon for their ruler, they are usually fond of change, and adapt themselves easily to changing conditions. But no matter how much they like change, they also like home. Thus one often finds natives of Cancer roaming the whole world in the course of their business, yet keeping up a home somewhere, to which they gladly return whenever they can.

In the course on 32 Paths of Wisdom you learned that the Uniting Intelligence, which is the phase of consciousness corresponding to the Moon vibration, is what puts us in contact with legions of Invisible Helpers, and also in touch with hordes of Invisible Hinderers. Since this phase of consciousness is dominant in Cancer, because the Moon is the ruler of this sign, we find that Cancer people are often very mediumistic. They are frequently vividly aware of their contact with entities outside their personal organisms. Bearing in mind that the Hebrew letter corresponding to Cancer is Cheth, the Fence, we might say that these entities are on the other side of the fence of personality. When Cancer natives understand that they must exercise careful discriminative selection in their contacts with these outside entities, no harm follows their mediumistic tendencies. All too often, however, they are carried away by the mysteriousness of this intercourse with what they call "the forces". They draw the wholly erroneous conclusion that because an entity is invisible, and outside the field of personality, it must therefore be wise, powerful and good. You have been instructed sufficiently in earlier courses not to be affected by this common error. Take it to heart, and put it into practice, especially if you were born when the Sun was in Cancer, or have this for your ascendant.

Jupiter (24) is the planet said by astrologers to be exalted in Cancer. As a rule they mean that if Jupiter was in the sign Cancer when you were born, the Jupiter vibrations will be particularly strong and beneficial in your life. This is true, so far as it goes. But there is more to it from the occult side. No matter where the planet Jupiter may be located in your horoscope, the interior "planet" which concerns you most always has its most potent expression through the mental states and the physical functions corresponding to Cancer. In consciousness, the Jupiter vibration finds expression as the "Rewarding Intelligence of Those Who Seek" or the "Intelligence of Conciliation". The course 32 Paths of Wisdom told you a good deal about this phase of consciousness and its effect on your life. Review also what has been written in earlier courses concerning Key No. 7.

In addition, it would also be beneficial to review the material in the course on Color and Sound concerning the Jupiter center. As you review, you will see that to be able to tap the store of information which may be reached through the Jupiter center is to come into possession of knowledge which gives direct and pertinent answers to specific questions. The unfolding of the powers of the Jupiter center also brings a progressive realization of the occult relationships between things which are apparently disconnected, or even actively opposed to each other. Little by little, this perception of hidden correspondences takes definite shape and form in the mind of the speaker, until at last it becomes the experience allegorically described as the "finding of the Lost Word".

If you are ready to receive it, this experience is physiological as well as mental. It happens to us when our body chemistry is just right, and not otherwise. This fine adjustment of the body chemistry depends upon transformations of physical substances which occur during the process of digestion in the stomach, which is astrologically governed by the sign Cancer. This may not be so "spiritual" as some people would like to have all things occult. No matter what one calls it, it is true. Furthermore, the subtle modifications of the digestive process which are necessary to bring

about the particular chemical changes in the organism I have mentioned are themselves the result of an attitude of mind. Your Tarot tableau describes that attitude as "RECEPTIVITY-WILL". That attitude is evoked by the 7th major trump. It is more than a mere intellectual recognition of the significance of the symbols combined in that picture. It is more than saying, "Yes," to the proposition, "The universal I AM is the rider in the vehicle of personality." This assent is necessary. This intellectual recognition must be given. But these are only preliminary. Genuine and complete receptivity, such as Jesus expressed when he said, "My will is to do the will of Him that sent me," is a matter of interior growth. Key No. 7, used as a focus for concentration, will accelerate that growth.

Cancer governs the breasts, the stomach, the esophagus, the thoracic duct, the lacteals in the small intestine, the upper lobes of the liver, the diaphragm and the lower lobes of the lungs. Astrological afflictions in this sign cause coughs and hiccoughs, indigestion, gas on the stomach, and the gloom and hypochondria associated with indigestion — sometimes amounting to hysteria. Gallstones and jaundice are also among the ailments characteristic of this sign. To restore the normal functions of the parts of the body ruled by it and thus overcome the diseases enumerated, use Orange-Yellow and the tone D-sharp. Use also the complementary color, Blue-Violet, and the tone A, when any of the ailments mentioned above have produced a state of auto-intoxication, or when there is any indication of abnormal growths in the parts of the body ruled by Cancer.

The Cancer Sub-types

People born between June 20 and July 3 are under the special rulership of the Moon. As key words for these dates, your chart gives: receptive, domestic, imitative. People born at this time are the most likely to show the characteristic features of the cancer native. Usually they have a large chest. As they grow past middle age, they develop a prominent abdomen because of eating too much. The face is usually marked by a strong lower jaw, and the widest part of the face is between the ears. Brown hair, blue eyes and pale complexion are typical Cancer features. By comparison with the large upper body, the legs are slender. The gait is often rolling, like a sailor's.

From July 4 to July 13, the influence of Mars (16) is combined with that of the Moon (2). The key words are: intense, patriotic, tenacious. These are the people who know their rights and are determined to defend them. Conservative as natives of Cancer are, those whose birthdays fall in the period now under consideration are often ready to make iconoclastic and radical changes in their ways and in their environment in order to preserve what they regard as the fundamentals worth saving. To insure the liberty of the individual, the sanctity of the home, and the integrity of the nation, they will even go to the length of overthrowing existing institutions. Tenacious of essentials, they are ready to cast aside any mere form whose continuance seems to threaten the true substance they desire to preserve.

From July 14 to July 23, there comes into play the combined influence of Neptune (12) and Jupiter (10). Neptune confers a mystical quality, and Jupiter gives love of ceremony and a leaning to formal religion. People born during this period are described as being sympathetic, courteous, and ceremonious. In many respects they are the most fortunate natives of Cancer. Usually they are the ones who accumulate the greatest amount of property and receive the most attention and respect from their contemporaries.

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The tableau for developing the Cancer qualities, and for stimulating the vibratory powers that lead to this development, is Tarot Keys No. 7, No. 2, No. 16, No. 10 and No. 12. From these Tarot numbers you should also construct the color and tone sequences. In using tone, sing AUM three times before looking at each picture, and at the same moment imagine the corresponding color, or use the actual color as you sing the syllable. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-four

CANCER (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

The seventh Tarot Key, called the Chariot, is assigned to the zodiacal sign of Cancer. The Moon is the ruler of Cancer; therefore Tarot Key No. 2, the High Priestess, is the next Key in our Cancer tableau. The ruler of the second decanate of Cancer is Mars, ruler of Scorpio, the next water sign after Cancer. The last decanate has a double rulership. Neptune, after its discovery, was given co-rulership with Jupiter in Pisces. The later planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, all have to deal with more of the mass mind developments, or generic Karma. The more personal elements in relation to each of the signs are much more closely represented by the original planetary rulers. Therefore, in our Tradition we consider both as rulers in order to show the full picture, psychologically and spiritually. Both Tarot Key No. 12 and Tarot Key No. 10 are next in our current tableau. Jupiter is exalted in Cancer, so we have an extra emphasis on Tarot Key No. 10, Jupiter.

In order to grasp the esoteric significance of each of the signs of the zodiac, we must remember always that we are dealing with One Universal Mind. This ALL cannot really be separated into this degree or that degree — into this sign or that sign. The entire universe is born of the activity of this Universal Mind. It has a thought form of its own activity. This thought form, according to our present sensory perceptions, is represented by what we see when we look out into the heavens. The sun, the planets, the stars, the nebulae — all of these things are just the way the mental motion of the cosmic substance appears to our senses. Although we are seeing the heavens from an outer sensory awareness, nevertheless, because all of these elements are the workings of consciousness experiencing itself in specific ways, we come to realize that the physical thing is apparently there because there is consciousness to think it and consciousness to experience it. We are part of the way consciousness, or God, experiences that particular aspect of its own livingness. So in understanding the apparent differences in personality traits in various zodiacal types, it is well to realize that they are the outcome of angular differences in the planets' relationship to the Earth. The sun and planets describe interwoven angles of radiation. The various impacts of the angles of force are what bring the specializations of personality reaction.

Generally speaking, the typical Cancer type is a home lover. Cancer is considered the most domestic sign in the zodiac, very attached to family. This is an aspect of their nurturing, maternal nature. Whether it be a man or a woman, it doesn't matter. A man can be very masculine and still be nurturing towards those to whom he feels a responsibility. This nurturing element, strong in the basic Cancer type, can result in anti-social activities in the not too highly developed native. Undeveloped Cancerians can be extremely clever in conniving for the benefit of the family. More highly developed types express this quality in civic mindedness. In very highly evolved types, this expresses in a compassionate social consciousness — a love for all of the world. This beautiful nurturing instinct is a very vital trait. It is the beginning of seeing all of life as an aspect of God, of developing a wonder and love for even the tiniest aspects of consciousness. This is the way one expands oneself into the Universal Consciousness, a consciousness of being One with God. Everything that lives and all that exists is an activity in God's mind and heart. This is one of the secrets of attaining to union with God.

In Tarot Key No. 7 notice the abundance of fence symbolism. The vehicle

itself is a fence symbolic of our personalities. It is saying in essence: "The Higher Self of me, or the individualized aspect of God which is my I Am, is the true rider in the chariot of personality." The starry canopy indicates, among other things, that these are universal forces which are being specialized. Any fenced-in area is for a special purpose. People fence in their gardens for distinct effects. This is what our personality really is, you know — it is a marked out area. The Higher Self holds this area in consciousness, developing a field of force. Our smallest physical particle, the atom, is a specialized field of force. It is the One Universal Self being specialized for manifestation.

The fence symbolism also indicates the beneficent aspects of limitation. We have a tendency to moan and groan about limitation. What we need to remember is that limitation is really a gift of God. Without limitations we could not have consciousness at all. Consciousness is deliberately limiting and inhibiting the mind from wandering aimlessly. Limitation is only apparently evil. It is with this Tarot Key that we can more readily see that limitation is really a safeguard. It is the nurturing, maternal aspect protecting us from harm. Look how the mother holds the embryo within a prescribed area of her womb. After the infant is born, this maternal instinct protects the baby from harm. This is a form of limitation, but loving limitation. Isn't it love when the baby is kept from doing something that will harm him? Yet the baby will cry and feel very frustrated and limited because he is being kept from doing something that looks like so much fun. We do the same thing in regard to the conditions and circumstances in our lives. We weep and moan about what we consider our frustrations. This, of course, has a tendency to build them. We must learn to see every apparent frustration as the grace of God, teaching, training and directing us within prescribed areas. It is amazing what can happen to our entire life experience when we view our problems in this light. So, in respect to Cancer, remember that whenever things seem to be fencing you in — do not think of it as injustice or mistreatment. It is not what it appears. It is God keeping us from sticking our fingers in the fire. Lift your hearts in gratitude and say with Jesus, "I have no will save the will of Him that sent me."

Another important aspect of the Cancer nature is its impressionability. The three water signs are the most psychic in the zodiac. Many psychic mediums have strong Cancer or Pisces aspects in their chart. Scorpio, being a fixed sign is more occult than psychic. Being psychic, however, does not necessarily mean that one is spiritual. Psychism can actually hinder spirituality if the openness to the thoughts and feelings of others is allowed to operate negatively. Having a psychic vehicle can make it easier to develop certain subtle awarenesses if one realizes that this gift is a two-edged sword. Those of us who are psychic are forever being bombarded by the thoughts and feelings of others. We must be on guard in this area. When we experience nameless depression, for instance, we must not personalize it by seeking its basis in our personal life. We must recognize that because of our sensitivity we are tuning into a universal phase of depression and endeavor to let it wash around us. We must not surrender to its influence by searching for its cause in our environment or relationships.

The ruler of Cancer is the Moon, symbolized in Tarot by the High Priestess. The Moon is more than just the reflective body we see in the heavens at night. There is a spiritual conscious reality related to all of the planets. The hidden reality can no more be seen than you can see or weigh love. In the same manner the actual true spiritual entity is a type of consciousness that is behind the so-called outer form of the planets. In the solar system the planets which revolve around the Sun are elements of the Sun, just as a toe is part of our foot and our foot is part of our body. The planets are a part of the Sun and they live within the radiations of the Sun — just as we do. We

are expressions of the entire solar system, and the solar system is an expression of the Sun. The Sun, in turn, is an expression of the Universal Spiritual Life, or Spiritual Sun.

The position of the Moon at the moment of our birth is very important. The Moon's position indicates the subconscious deeper inner personality. It is in relation to the placing of the Moon that we get an understanding of some of the emotional elements of our nature. The depth and intensity of the emotions is one indication of evolutionary level. As we become more highly evolved, we develop greater power and intensity. That is why you sometimes hear that the greatest sinners become the greatest saints. It is because great sinners often have great emotional power. When they learn to properly channel this power it can take them to the highest levels of perception and awareness. We are working at reaching into the depths of our own souls, to face the things that our moon — or subconscious nature — holds. The Moon vibration controls the subconscious faculties, including psychic abilities such as telepathy, etc. The Cancer type, or those who have certain planets highlighted in Cancer, are usually tremendously telepathic. In Tarot Key No. 2 the whole emotional element may not seem to be so obvious when we look at the still, calm figure of the High Priestess. But if you will notice the water flowing from her robe, you will begin to see the emotional content symbolized.

The Cancer type has to learn to control his emotions. Controlling the emotions requires this element of serenity depicted by the High Priestess. He who really knows how to deal with his subconscious nature and trusts the guidance of the Higher Self can be serene in the face of the flowing, fluidic waters of the collective subconscious that we all share. Being emotional is a very lovely thing, but we must be able to calm the waters into stillness for power and direction. The Cancer type, because they have such deep feelings, are very easily hurt, very sensitive. They are sensitive to a greater degree than any other zodiacal type. Cancerians are like the quivering strings of a violin. The slightest touch will set them in motion. If you have problems with Cancerians, remember that their emotions are very deep and very strong. You must be careful not to be harsh with them. They have a tendency to go to pieces under the impact of dissention. No one should be this vulnerable, of course. The Cancerian type should work on controlling their sensitivity and not letting themselves be pulled into the subconscious levels of depression. We are all vulnerable in this respect to some degree. We all have everything in us, as you know by now. This sensitivity can be an asset if we can develop strength to back it up. On the positive side, when under control it gives the ability to know more readily the emotions and feelings of others. This is an ability that truly needs developing in all of us, because one of the greatest problems that plagues mankind is an inability to understand the feelings and needs of others. This is the basis of so much of man's inhumanity to man.

Every one of us is our brother's keeper, whether we want to be or not, whether we know it or not. We all have an interpermeating flow on subconscious levels. We all influence each other all of the time. The Cancer type become aware of this influence more readily than others. Work with this tableau will help us to become more aware of this subconscious rapport that we have with all of life. We will then be able to see that it has been our inability to tune into the potential of other souls that has been the cause of so many of our emotional problems. When we comprehend the affinity between all of us, we will be more likely to become aware of the emotional blocks and patterns in ourselves. We will better be able to see what is going on beneath the surface, and control oversensitivity. Super-sensitivity always means that we are worrying more about ourselves and our ego than considering the other person's needs or trying to understand his point of view. People who are deliberately unkind to us are

expressing a need in themselves in an immature manner. When we permit ourselves to get hurt, we are accepting the opinion of another human being without proper evaluation on our part. As an example, suppose you have no desire to be wealthy. You feel you would be content with a small income — enough so you can study and do the things you like to do without too many physical or material responsibilities. This would be success to you. Suppose someone else who has more of the world's values thinks of success in terms of the professions, or considerable money in the bank. An individual with this kind of standard evaluation would look upon you as a failure because you are not following his idea of success. If you get your feelings hurt, it is because you are accepting his evaluation, his ideas of what determines success or failure. In the same way, if somebody said to you, "You are selfish.", are you going to be hurt, or are you going to first find out what his idea of selfishness is?

Watch this oversensitivity in your own heart. You will find something that you need to become aware of — something that needs to be brought out from subconsciousness into the open in order to be transmuted. If you catch yourself reacting over-emotionally about anything, it is usually a sign of something that you are reacting to automatically from mental traumas and patterns out of the past.

We have been giving a specialized analysis for the different degrees in each sign, dividing them into three parts. Actually there are variations with every one half degree. That is why nothing is ever exact. Another consideration is the evolutionary level of the soul. We respond in accordance with the level of maturity we have reached to the forces as they play through us.

Those born in the first decanate of Cancer, approximately June 20 to July 3, are under the rulership of the Moon. The highlighted characteristics are: receptive, domestic and imitative. Imitative in this instance has to do with an ability to concentrate in the subconscious emotional aspects of life. Their subconscious awareness makes them appear to be easily influenced by the thoughts and feelings of those about them. It gives that imitative quality which is fine when one is conscious of it. Look how we delight in the comedians who do imitations of others. We are all many aspected creatures. Although we have this stable something which is the Self, that stable Self falls into various relationships and plays many different roles as friends and acquaintances pull different aspects of ourselves out of us. This is how we get to understand our personality — how we learn to differentiate between that which is the Self, the Watcher, and that which is the experience or personality aspect. This is part of livingness. We lose ourselves in our personalities just as we can lose ourselves in a play or a movie. This is a rewarding experience, provided we know we are losing ourselves in it and can return to our selfhood. We need to be able to consciously fall into the role that others pull from us. We can learn much from this. "Why is it," you might say, "when I am with so and so, the lowest elements in me suddenly seem to crop up; yet when I am with another friend I feel so serene and at peace. With still another acquaintance I am all excited and stimulated?" Always remember that this is your response because of the kind of relationship impact that is being made on the subconscious levels.

When you really start enjoying your personality, that fence, which is the vehicle in Tarot Key No. 7, you will consciously fall into your role and realize that all of us are automatic response mechanisms to what other people want us to be to some degree. With this realization, however, should come a determination not to respond to others in this manner on negative levels. Suppose people are determined they are going to be rejected in relation to you. Subconsciously they have decided they are going to be rejected. This, incidentally, is not at all unusual. They may be punishing

themselves for something, or you may remind them of somebody else who once rejected them. You, so to speak, fall into the rejection groove of their memory patterns. Subconsciously they will be projecting to you various elements in order to get you to dislike them. They are not aware of this consciously. If it were conscious it could be controlled. As you become aware that someone is pulling from you activities, thoughts and speech that are basically rejective of him, you will not be as likely to let that negative projection succeed. You are going to help him by not falling into the trap. You will then be able to react from your own consciousness and substitute the beginnings of a positive relationship. By so doing you will be helping that person overcome a serious personality problem, because for once in his life he has not been played back the record of his own negative pattern. In these subtle ways we help others, as we learn the basic types through work with these tableaux. With this tableau, we are learning to work with the waters of subconsciousness. To work with it, to enjoy it, to experience it, but not to become lost in it. That is, perhaps, one of our greatest problems. We become lost in what others bring out in us, instead of being what we decide to be, strongly and with a force that will motivate others to respond to our positiveness.

The second decanate Cancer, July 4 to July 13, have the subrulership of Mars. This second decanate type is much more forceful, more intense, than those of the first decanate. They are said to be patriotic, tenacious and intense. Their intensity can be so profound that they are subject to the development of psychosomatic illnesses. The patriotic element in the Cancer type is very interesting. A part of the nature expanded itself away from just a maternal instinct toward the family and extended out to include the nation of birth. It is really the same maternal protective feeling basically. Patriotism is an emotional response, even though it isn't usually considered as such. Everyone tends to rationalize his emotions and make them sound reasonable. Emotions, however, that we are not aware of or that we do not understand completely are never rational. The understanding of the emotional life is part of attaining Cosmic Consciousness. Without it, such attainment is impossible. This supreme attainment demands that we become aware of the emotional influences on our thinking process.

In a hypnotic experiment, several subjects were given the suggestion that they were to take off one of their shoes and put it on the mantel fifteen minutes after being released from the hypnotic state. Each of the subjects, after the proper time lapse, took off his shoe and put it on the mantel. When each was asked why he had done this, the answers were revealing. One answered, "My foot was hot." The foot couldn't really have been hot, but he had to find a rational excuse. Another said, "My toes were itching." But was that the reason? There was one subject who said, "I really don't know. I just had the compulsion to do it." This last one, who did not try to rationalize, proved to be the most aware and alert in other areas when further tests were given. He had the least unconscious rationalization of the emotions. These unreasoning emotional tendencies are what we must watch in ourselves. Emotions are wonderful; they are our basic livingness. We must, however, learn to see and understand the immaturities involved in unreasoning emotional responses.

In the third decanate Cancer type, July 14 to July 23, there is a double rulership of Neptune and Jupiter. Neptune is represented by the Hanged Man, Tarot Key No. 12, and Jupiter is symbolized by the Wheel of Fortune. Neptune symbolizes intuitive and psychic forces. Tarot Key No. 12 shows the reversal of the old, incorrect and immature ways of thinking and feeling. It shows an awareness of complete dependence on the Cosmic Life. Jupiter, the other sub-ruler, is the greater benefic and symbolizes expansiveness and good fortune. The third decanate Cancerian have

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less trouble with over-sensitivity because they have this combination of the rulership, which is a little stronger. The key words are: sympathetic, courteous and ceremonious. This Cancerian type are truly sympathetic with the troubles of others. They possess an unusual kind of empathy that is able to tune into what others really feel. This trait, which is true of all highly evolved Cancer types, is most easily developed by the third decanate natives. For this reason you will very often find your third decanate Cancerian in social work or other benevolent activities. Remember, again, all of us have this potential in our nature. We all must develop the positive qualities of Cancer as we must develop the positive qualities of all the signs in order to achieve that wholeness of personality that is essential for real transmutation.

TECHNIQUE

Place before you the Cancer Tableau, Keys No. 7, 2, 16, 10 and 12. First permeate yourself with the Yellow-Orange of Key No. 7 and intone the corresponding note (D#). Meditate on the positive qualities of the Cancer type — emotional depth, sympathy, understanding of others, and social consciousness. In turn concentrate upon, image the color, and intone the corresponding note of the planetary forces which are being blended and properly proportioned in the Cancerian personality.

AFFIRMATION

My personality is a beloved chariot of the One Self. Rich, deep emotions of livingness being expressed through this ever more perfected vehicle are channeled into positive expressions of understanding, protectiveness and all-embracing sympathy. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-five

LEO (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Leo is the second of the four fixed signs of the zodiac, and the second of the three fiery signs. As you know, all the fixed signs are characterized by stability and persistence, and all the fiery signs are intensely vital. Enduring vitality is thus indicated as the basic quality of Leo. This is plainly shown by the title of the corresponding Tarot Key, Strength, which has a lion as a prominent feature of its symbolism.

Leo is ruled by the Sun. In Tarot, therefore, Key No. 19 represents the dominant influence behind all the activities pictured by Key No. 8. Certainly it is true that the Intelligence of the Secret of all spiritual activities is a particular manifestation of the Collective Intelligence. And equally true that the control of subconscious forces pictured by Key No. 8 is what brings into active manifestation and objective expression the truth that the real Self in every human personality is always, has been always, and will always be the eternal Child who is One with the Father of Lights.

Try to understand that this is true of you, right now, because it is always true of every human being. It does not appear to be true, but you are not concerned with appearances. All wise men unite to tell us that the basis of mastery is intellectual recognition and affirmation of this truth in spite of appearances. This recognition and affirmation are the basis of mastery, because by practicing the recognition the idea takes on a suggestive value. It is then communicated through the law of suggestion to the body-building activities of the organism. Little by little, under the influence of this suggestion, the flesh and blood are changed and purified. New cell structure is developed. New functions are thereby made possible. Then the truth, which has always been, becomes manifest, because the transformed vehicle is able to express it.

The Child, or real Self, is never anything but One with the Paternal Light-Source. It does not attain that identity. Neither, as some have taught, does it regain it, after having lost it. What happens is that it builds a vehicle which can express that identity. The whole process of evolution has been part of that building operation; your previous states of existence have been part of it. It is going on in you even as you read these words. Little by little it is transforming your physical body, and the process will continue until that body becomes the transparent vehicle of the Life-Power playing through it. None other than this is the meaning of the phenomenon of transfiguration which has been witnessed again and again in the course of a Master's development. We have had the cart before the horse when we have believed that the change was spiritual. Spirit never changes. Body, the vehicle, is altered, and the basis of the alteration is the vital energy associated with the sign Leo, the energy which enters the organism through the heart center governed by that sign.

It is because Leo is the channel of the Solar energy which is typified in Tarot as the Children who are One with the Father, that the first of the key words given for this sign is "paternal". The others, "commanding" and "magnanimous", indicate the most prominent mental qualities of the Leo type. Even Leo women are paternal. Just as Cancer men are often obviously motherly in their attitude toward children and young people, so Leo women are prone to exhibit what can only be called a "fatherly" interest in persons younger than themselves. Though they are commanding, and thus resemble the Aries type in liking to rule, there is a decided difference. Aries natives must

always be at the front, leading the procession. Leo people are willing to stay in the background, if only the real authority is theirs. They do not particularly dislike prominence, but power and mastery mean more to them than mere leadership. Thus many political bosses are to be found among natives of Leo, and many business executives who are seldom in the limelight of public notice.

The developed Leo temperament is distinguished by strong powers of concentration. The fixed quality of the sign makes them purposeful and unwavering in their progress toward a given objective. From this fixed quality, too, come their deep and lasting affections, and their equally decided aversions. As might be expected from the fiery nature of the sign and its ruler, the Sun, natives of Leo are often quick-tempered. Yet they are seldom found nursing a grudge. Their nature is too sunny for that. And if their temper has flared as a consequence of misunderstanding or mistaken judgment, they are quick to make amends and apologies. What angers them most is anything petty or cowardly. They hate deceit and are outspoken in their condemnation of meanness or falsehood. This often makes them come into conflict with the scheming type of person whose life is principally motivated by fear and a sense of inferiority, and among such people the Leo native finds his worst enemies. Neither can he get along very well with anybody who is lukewarm or a "straddler". For whatever a Leo individual does, he puts everything he has into it, and is boundless in his enthusiasm for anything he believes in.

These remarks, of course, apply only to the positive expression of the Leo temperament. Undeveloped types are likely to be blustering, domineering, and fond of vulgar display. They wear loud clothes, too much jewelry, and are often noisy in public places. In these undeveloped types, too, there is a feline streak of cruelty, which shows itself as tendency to adopt a bullying attitude toward their families, dependents or subordinates.

Physically, the typical Leo is about middle height, or a little above. He has a broad expansive chest, massive shoulders, strong arms, and large head. The lower part of the body is smaller, tapering at the hips, but yet muscular. The erect carriage of the body is noticeable and conveys a distinct impression of dignity and pride. The complexion is ruddy or florid; the hair often has a reddish tint under sunlight, even when it is dark. The eyes are usually blue or gray, often rather prominent, and the glance is keen and penetrating. The expression is sunny and little laughter wrinkles around the eyes are a common indication of the Leo nativity. Often the face has a distinctly leonine cast.

When natives of this sign neglect the rules of health, the organ most likely to be affected is the heart. Other areas of the body governed by Leo are the dorsal region of the spine, from the joining of the lower ribs up to the neck joint, the spinal cord, and the aorta. Diseases of this area are: palpitation of the heart, regurgitation, defective circulation, aneurism, fainting, arteriosclerosis, angina pectoris, hyperemia, anemia, hydremia, spinal troubles of all kind including meningitis and curvature. The color to promote normal function of the area governed by Leo is Yellow, and the corresponding tone is E-natural.

Neptune, the planet represented in the Tarot by the Hanged Man, is exalted in Leo. This means that Leo people, more than any others, are natural mystics; also often make excellent practical occultists, character analysts, and astrologers. Miss Elizabeth Aldrich, of New York City, once published an interesting study of the horoscopes of celebrated astrologers which showed that nearly every prominent exponent of this art has had the Sun in Leo, Leo rising, or strong planets well aspected in Leo.

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The reason why Neptune is strong in Leo is that this vibration, as the Hanged Man shows, makes for intuitive dependence upon the universal Life-Power and its laws. This is easy for Leo people, because their consciousness is strongly fixed in the heart center, which is the point where the Life-Power makes its physical entrance into the personal organism. Leo natives are more keenly aware of their contact with this Life-Power than are natives of any other sign. Their awareness of contact with it amounts almost to a physical sensation of its influx.

The Leo Sub-types

Persons born between July 24 and August 2 are the most typical Leos, because the Sun, ruler of the sign, also rules the time-period in which they are born. They are described in your chart as "sincere, amiable, and dignified". These qualities bring them many friends. Often they are found acting as advisors, for their sincerity inspires confidence, and they are usually good judges of character, and can quickly find out what is best to do to solve any difficult problem. They have active minds and strong bodies. They are very independent and determined, industrious, frank, honest, outspoken and very conscientious.

Persons born between August 3 and August 12 have the vibrations of the planet Jupiter mixed with those of the Sun, since Jupiter is the ruler of that time-period. They are described as kindly, tolerant and urbane. They are a little stockier than other Leo natives. In manner they are somewhat more formal and also more given to display. They like company and entertainments, and are often found taking prominent parts in political, church and lodge activities. As a rule they are fond of outdoor sports and love horses and dogs.

Persons born between August 13 and August 22 have a strong tinge of the Mars vibration. They are more independent than any of the other Leo types, and also more progressive, and sometimes iconoclastic. Their key words are: fearless, outspoken, animated. Usually somewhat slighter of body than the other Leos, they are also more energetic and quick in their movements, and their glance is very keen. Their tempers are quick, and under provocation they have sharp tongues. They speak rapidly, crisply, and very much to the point.

To develop these Leo qualities in your own personality, use the following Tarot sequence: 8 - 19 - 10 - 16 - 12. The corresponding color sequence is Yellow, Orange, Violet, Red, Blue. The related musical tones are E - D - A# - C - C#. In using this tonal sequence, complete it by returning to E, and thus keeping the whole sequence in the key of E.

The same procedure is advisable in using the tonal sequences corresponding to the Tarot sequences given for the other signs. Returning to the tone which corresponds to the sign keeps the tone-sequence in the same key as that of the sign. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-six

LEO (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Our tableau for this lesson deals with the zodiacal sign Leo, symbolized by Tarot Key No. 8, Strength. The Sun is the ruler of Leo; therefore, Tarot Key No. 19 is next in the tableau. The second decanate is sub-ruled by Jupiter, Tarot Key No. 10; and the third by Mars, Tarot Key No. 16. Tarot Key No. 12, the Hanged Man, assigned to Neptune, completes this tableau because Neptune is exalted in Leo. This tableau, like all the others, refers to everyone. It is just a bit more accentuated for those who have the Sun, Moon, or Ascendant in Leo. Any other planets in Leo also highlight its qualities. If Mercury were in Leo, then the intellect would express thru qualities associated with this type. If Venus were in Leo, then the emotional nature would express through Leo characteristics. Even if you should have no planet in Leo, this sign still influences you because the Sun is ruler of Leo, and its position at the time of your birth would determine what other characteristics the Leo part of your nature would be blended with. There is no more important point in this whole course than that we must meditate on every one of the twelve tableaux in order to perfect ourselves as the entire zodiac, expressing the most positive aspects of each sign.

In analyzing a pattern of individuality in astrology, we must remember to consider not only where every planet is in terms of the sign of the zodiac and the decanate, but the aspects they make with each other as well. Aspects are, you might say, the degrees of force that meet each other and blend to produce different effects. For instance, 60 degrees between two planets is called a sextile and is considered favorable. 90 degrees between two planets is called a square and is said to be rather adverse. A square in the chart between two planets would indicate a certain conflict involved with what the planets symbolize. This conflict, however, manufactures extra energy, and the extra energy helps one to do a lot of growing. It has been found that most sincere occultists, and those who attain prominence in other fields of endeavor, have had their share of squared aspects. Too many exoteric astrologers view squares as unmitigated evils. They do bring problems and bring out weaknesses, but they are unhappy only because we are not yet able to cope properly with these stronger vibrations. We are apt to find ourselves meeting these problems unwisely at first. Nevertheless, this is what matures us. This is what gives us fire and force. It is how we handle our problems and the response we make to the situations that plague us that determines whether we learn by them or succumb to them in despair and inertia.

The Leo key words are most enlightening: paternal, commanding, magnanimous. They emphasize the warmth and majesty of the Sun rulership. In the Cancer tableau we had the key word "maternal". What is the difference between maternal and paternal? The maternal aspect is nurturing, protecting. The paternal aspect is expressed through interest in younger people and an attempt to help guide and advise them.

The commanding element is interesting here, too. Leos have a great need to rule, to be dominant, be the king. It is a little different from the need for leadership of the Aries type. Leos are much more intense about what they want. They want to be the real king. Outward leadership is not as important to them as having the final authority. Leos are also very intense and persevering about whatever they think or feel. They tend to have strong reactions pro or con. This Leo intensity is a neces-

sary tool for getting things done. Getting things done is certainly something that this world seems to be in dire need of, especially in the area of transmuting undesirable traits. From our limited time sense it does seem like evolution is taking a long time. It is said that most human beings take three incarnations to make one major mutation in some immature or undeveloped area of their nature. This, of course, could be very discouraging, except that the more we develop, the more rapidly do we start making these mutations. Finally we come to a point where there are many people who are really sincere in occult work and persistent enough to make pretty close to a hundred major mutations in one lifetime. When actually working with transmutation such as we are doing with our Tarot and Qabalistic studies, the progress actually multiplies by geometrical progression. It is fantastic the difference conscious cooperation makes in the evolutionary process of man. Once an aspirant is really sincere and uses his divine drive to determinedly eliminate the patterns and erroneous opinions that are holding him back, there is no limit to his evolutionary potential. He will, of course, be under stronger pressures and his problems will also be multiplied and intensified. This is part of the forcing process that we must withstand as aspirants. One thing we should remember in regard to these extra pressures and problems is to see the whole process as a challenging game and refuse to identify ourselves with the unevolved portions of our nature that are being intensified in order to be eliminated. As this transmuting continues, we become more sensitized to the emotions and problems of others. If we do not let ourselves get pulled in, if we can hold a portion of ourselves inviolate, this sensitivity can aid us tremendously. Much of the actual elimination and transmutation can be done vicariously by seeing and understanding the patterns and problems in the lives of others. Our work with these Tarot tableaux helps intensify and speed up the wheel of progress. Not that this work guarantees our attainment to the Higher Wisdom. This depends on our own capacity and determination to progress. The Leos have a wonderful capacity for this because of their basically persevering and intense nature.

Leo natives are also very cooperative if properly approached. Of course, the proper approach to anyone is most important if you wish them to cooperate with you. That is one reason why we are learning to become aware of all of these elements in ourselves, so that we will know how to approach each amazing individual, each unique miracle of God in the way that will get the greatest results and keep the most beautiful harmony going. So, whatever you do, if you know any Leos or are closely associated with any of them, don't give orders! Make requests. You will get cooperation, especially if you make the requests in such a way as to let the Leo feel that you are in great need. The Leo native can never resist helping anyone in need. This is what is meant by the attribution of magnanimous. If you're in trouble, if you are in need, if you can look pathetic — even if you don't feel pathetic — you'll get help from a Leo. Friendships with Leos are usually very rewarding, too, because of their intense, loyal and affectionate nature.

In unevolved Leo types, or those who still have much transmuting to do in certain areas, there is a tendency to arrogance, pride and an unwarranted need for praise. This is because they tend to have a need to be whatever the world calls a success. Leo natives do have what it takes usually to develop their talents. Whatever a Leo makes up his mind to be or do, if he really makes it up, he'll be it and he will do it and he'll usually do a magnificent job because of this wonderful ability for concentration. Leo natives are also known for their sunny, good-natured personalities. Leos spread joy and good spirits wherever they go. They shine all over the place just like the Sun. They have a tendency to warm up any place they enter. Remember then, to give your Leo friends and relatives lots of praise. We all need it, you know. We all need recognition, but with Leo natives the need is a little greater.

You'll get cooperation and friendship and love from them if you'll make them feel that they are the Sun to you. Leo natives have a deep capacity for lasting affection. They give it with depth and loyalty. In terms of love, Leo rules the Fifth house which has to do with love affairs, or more broadly, with the basic love nature. Your spiritual progress is dependent on your understanding of love. It is said that the universe exists because God is love. The symbolism of Tarot Key No. 8, assigned to Leo, will help us to grasp the significance of this part of our nature. The lion symbolizes the libido. This is the vital soul that we share with all living creatures. This vital soul is really the driving energy of livingness itself. As it expresses on different levels, it is called by different names. When it expresses on mental levels, we call it thinking ability and capacity. When it expresses on feeling levels, we call it emotion. When it expresses on reproductive levels, we call it the sex drive. When it expresses on creative levels, we call it artistic ability for music and the arts. These are all specializations of this one energy — the love energy — the sex energy — the libido — the vital soul which we share with all creatures. The Hebrew letter assigned to this Tarot Key means serpent. As you know, serpent is one of the terms used for the actual sex energy and sex drives. The shape of the lion's tail indicates this. Notice that the woman has tamed this lion with the flowers of Venus, who symbolizes creative imagination and love. This woman is an aspect of Venus, love. She is using love, the red roses, to tame, to cultivate, to civilize, the animalistic, unthinking drives of the libido. Because of her love, she can even put her hands in his mouth. He will not destroy her. He is tamed by love. Above the woman's head is the figure 8, symbol of eternity. The same symbol is above the Magician's head. This whirling 8 of eternity is indicating the hidden self-consciousness that is the actual doer, the actual initiator, of this taming process.

The whole idea is that we must become aware on conscious levels of this primary force. We must work with it from self-conscious levels, giving it constant attention, in order to get the humanized part of our subconsciousness to train and direct this force that ordinarily is destructive. Then the driving desire nature is turned toward spiritual levels and this energy is utilized for attainment. As we have often stated, this does not mean that one stops expressing love on the physical or reproductive level. Unhappily, there are schools of thought who tell you that if you want to attain the highest spiritual development you must become a celibate or an aesthetic. God would not have evolved this method, this means for expressing the unity of life, if it were a hindrance to spiritual development. The flowers that we find so beautiful in our gardens are the sex organs of the plant. We should consider the sex aspect between human beings as being a sacred expression of unity. The experience of complete sex unity between man and woman is one of the most extraordinarily beautiful ways of experiencing the unity of all of life. Only those who develop purity of heart toward this function, however, can approach this perfection of expression.

Leo, as you know, rules the heart. What does it mean to be pure of heart? Leo is ruled by the Sun, which in alchemy is the holy planet corresponding to the heart. Being pure in heart includes the ability to see the sex drives of all humans, all creatures, all plant life, as a sacred, beautiful, sacramental performance that expresses the unity of life. What we mean is that the emotional attitude toward sex must be transmuted. When you have transmuted your emotional attitude toward this function of life, then and only then are you ready to begin lifting the Kundalini Power for Illumination. What lifting the Kundalini really involves is the awakening of all of the interior centers in a harmonious manner, so that you become consciously aware of your true Selfhood as being an eternal aspect of God. Then the whole basic foundation of your being becomes permanently changed. You know by direct experience that you were never born and that you will never die. You are eternal, immortal and in-

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finite love. That is what awakening the Kundalini really involves. It is an awakening to another order of being. It takes place in the upper brain centers, but it involves what is really in the heart. The True Ego seated in the hearts of men.

Being pure in heart, or innocent in the sense of the two children in the fairy ring in Key 19, also is related to an important Qabalistic phrase: "Within the heart there is no guile." This carries with it the idea of the ability to respond to all of the elements and aspects of life with the feeling of purity and beauty, wonder and miracle, of the child.

The first decanate of Leo, July 24 through August 2, is also ruled by the Sun and adds the qualities: sincere, amiable and dignified. First decanate Leos have a tendency to become advisors in different lines of endeavor and are usually very competent at giving good advice in many areas. Because this decanate Leo like to be the heart behind the head -that is, the true drive- there are many first decanate Leos who go in for politics. They are also active in clubs, organizations, etc.

The second decanate Leo, August 3 through August 12, is ruled by Jupiter. Besides the other qualities, with this decanate are added the qualities: Kindliness, tolerance and urbanity. The reason that the second decanate is inclined towards extra kindness is because of the Jupiterian influence. In Tarot, as you know, it is called the Wheel of Fortune. A Jupiterian influence usually adds an expansive, benefic quality to the nature. The tolerance that comes from this broader perspective is a trait we should all develop.

The third decanate, August 13 through August 22, has a Mars sub-rulership. This Leo type has the most intense kind of fearlessness, outspokenness and animation because of the emphasis of fiery qualities. On the negative side, the third decanate Leos are apt to have uncontrollable tempers. However, they do not hold grudges. When they get over a thing, they are finished with it. If someone else is still holding a grudge about some situation, they are quite confused and bewildered and wonder what is the matter with him. This temper can show itself in great cruelties in undeveloped types, whereas the more highly evolved third decanate Leo is usually very progressive. They are not as fixated as fixed signs can sometimes be. In fact, some of the best known iconoclasts are from this decanate of Leo. They have the drive and intensity to knock down and destroy old worn out patterns and forms in governments and social and economic systems. They can be powerful fighters against bigotries and the false crowns of isolationism and exclusiveness.

When you meditate on the Leo tableau, image these positive elements as part of your nature.

The Hanged Man, Tarot Key No. 12, symbolizes Neptune, exalted in Leo. If Neptune was in Leo at the time of your birth, it will be easier for you to reverse the old patterns of negative thinking and feeling. You will be more open to reversal than other types. Neptune stays in a sign for about fourteen years. It was in Leo roughly between 1916 and 1929. Those born during this period are as a whole more open to Neptunian influences. This group has proven to be far more ready to accept a changing environment and to eliminate outmoded ideas and thoughts than those of many generations before them.

Neptune is called the planet of illusion and delusion on the negative side. On the positive side it is the planet of illumination. In respect to our Leo nature we can think of this illumination in terms of illuminating our love nature and illuminating

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the drive to rule, so that it becomes the drive to rule our own forces in the most positive way. We can also develop the ability to completely turn upside down those elements in our nature that have kept us fastened to patterns of continued frustration and unfulfillment.

Wherever Neptune is placed strongly in a chart — such as a conjunction to Sun or ascendant — you will usually find people who are quite psychic. Depending on their evolutionary level, they will be psychic in a negative or a positive sense. If they are very highly developed, the psychism will express as direct perception of principles of consciousness and as true intuition. When Neptune makes good aspects to Mercury, you will find that the intuition is highly developed. Adverse Neptunian aspects to Mercury, on the other hand, usually bring psychic awarenesses that are not very accurate. They are the deluded hunches coming from the lower astral levels. Remember in meditating on the Leo tableau to image the positive Neptunian aspects being developed in your nature.

TECHNIQUE

The tableau for this week is comprised of Keys No. 8, 19, 10, 16 and 12. As before, first review mentally the personality type involved, imaging the proper color (yellow) and intoning the corresponding note (E). Impress on your consciousness your desire to develop the positive qualities of the Leo nature. Next meditate on the planetary forces that are blended in this personality type. As before, image the color corresponding to each and intone the proper note. This particular tableau will do wonders for developing a sunny disposition, a broader tolerance of others, and an ability to open the inner sensorium that leads to true guidance from within.

AFFIRMATION

I recognize the power of love to transmute all patterns of error and false knowledge. My heart is an open center for the influx and outpouring of infinite love. With this wisdom to guide me, I will overcome the apparent antagonisms in my nature and find the beauty of conscious union with the source of All. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-seven

VIRGO (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Virgo and the Hermit represent the Individuality type of persons born between August 23 and September 22. The basic quality of the sign Virgo is earthy. It shares this quality with the signs Taurus (Hierophant) and Capricorn (Devil). Your tableau assigns the element earth (∇) to the 21st major trump, which also corresponds to Saturn.

A profound occult secret is connected with this element of earth. Thomas Vaughan, the alchemist and Qabalist, says that nobody ever sees the real earth except by attaining to the heavenly vision. The 21st Key, as you know, represents the heavenly vision, for it is a symbol of cosmic consciousness. It represents the adept's perception of the real meaning of the physical plane which is so misunderstood by most people — including a great many who style themselves metaphysicians and philosophers.

Long before we experience that vision in its perfection, we get intimations of its significance by the channel of interior hearing, or intuition, which is represented by the Hierophant. As we learn to listen to the Voice of the true Self, we get instruction as to ways and means to overcome the actual difficulties of everyday experience; we receive specific guidance that enables us to solve our problems. Because that guidance is based on immutable laws of the Life-power, the aspect of consciousness represented by the Hierophant is called "Eternal Intelligence". Because the direction of our lives through interior hearing makes them successful, the same mode of consciousness is termed "triumphant". What needs emphasis always is that the Hierophant represents a mode of consciousness which instructs us what to do here and now, on the physical plane. The crossed keys in front of him, with their bell-shaped wards, plainly intimate that the power he teaches us how to use is that of sound-vibration, a distinctly physical aspect of the Life-power's manifestation — the power, indeed, whereby we realize the doctrine of the Emerald Tablet, when it says of the One Force, "Its power is integrating, if it be turned into earth."

To integrate is to combine into a whole. Combination, mixture, synthesis, and embodiment are all synonyms. Every letter and picture in the Tarot tableau which relates to the element earth shows some aspect of these related ideas. The letter Vau means a nail, and the Hierophant pictures the union of the personal consciousness with the universal through intuition. The letter Ayin means an eye, the organ which synthesizes light-impressions as physical vision, and the Devil symbolizes the apparent incongruities presented to our minds by this synthesis. The letter Tau means a cross (either $+$ or \times), and this is a symbol of that union of positive and negative forces which the World typifies as a cosmic order. And the letter Yod, which means hand, represents the organ used by man for all his works of mixture, whereby he effects combinations not produced by the Life-power in its self-manifestation below human levels.

This idea of combination is definitely symbolized by the union of the two equilateral triangles which form the star in the Hermit's lantern. It is

also emphatically expressed by the attribution Coition to the letter Yod. In Tarot Fundamentals I have alluded to one phase of the occult reasons why sexual intercourse is represented in Tarot by a symbol which casual examination would naturally interpret as a symbol of celibacy. There I have spoken of the union of personal consciousness with the universal I AM, of the response of the personal mind to its universal counterpart, as an ecstatic experience, compared throughout mystic literature to the union of the lover with the beloved. Yet the occult teaching goes deeper than mere metaphor and symbolism. It states explicitly that the particular physical phenomena which are connected with the sign Virgo are themselves expressions of the fundamental law which finds expression in organic life as sex.

The physical phenomena in question are those which occur in the part of the body governed by the sign Virgo, which astrologers have always associated with the intestinal region. Specifically, they are the complex activities of digestion which take place in the small intestine, when the contents of the stomach, transformed into chyle, pass through that part of the alimentary canal. Chyle, according to the esoteric teaching on which these lessons are based, is the "Virgin's Milk" of the alchemists. From it is extracted the potable or fluid "gold" which cures all diseases and is used in making the Philosophers' Stone.

You should have little difficulty with this symbolism. Gold and sunlight are synonymous terms in alchemy. The fluid gold is solar energy, extracted from food when the food has become chyle. The chemical processes whereby that energy is extracted are extremely complex, but they all depend upon the laws of chemical affinity and electro-magnetic polarity which are the real foundation of the phenomena of sex, and the basis of reproduction.

Astrologers say that Mercury rules Virgo. This means that the aspect of consciousness represented by the Magician is dominant in these chemical functions that have just been mentioned. Dominant, first of all, because the perfection of those functions depends upon intelligent selection of food and upon intelligent adherence to the hygienic laws which keep the alimentary canal clean, and therefore free from infection.

Again, astrologers tell us that Mercury is exalted in Virgo. Here they are in agreement with those ancient Greek physicians who quite correctly taught that mental supremacy (the exaltation of Mercury) and intestinal health are inseparable. Sound thinking, we are beginning to rediscover, depends upon the chemical state of the blood. Let the blood be robbed of its rightful supply of "potable gold" by faulty intestinal assimilation of solar energy from chyle, and thinking becomes weak and ineffective.

Because of the natural intensification of the activity of this part of the organism which is found in persons having Virgo as an Individuality sign, astrologers have always noticed that the Virgo type is interested in health. During the ages of ignorance from which we are slowly emerging, that interest has more often than not been morbid, simply because people ignorant of hygiene and diet are prone to be morbid in all their mental activities, so that when they are natives of Virgo they frequently become what used to be termed hypochondriacs, suffering from all manner of imaginary diseases.

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Perhaps it is true that these sufferers do not have the diseases that they think they have. But we cannot dismiss their problem by saying that it is all "imagination". Nor can we make them well in every instance by purely mental methods. Suggestion, it is true, often works wonders by removing fear, but no amount of suggestion will charm away the definite poisonous results of unintelligent diet. The hypochondriac is really a sick man, but his disease is auto-intoxication complicated by insufficient supply of solar force extracted from chyle. Cleanse his intestinal tract, put him on a sensible diet, and use suggestion to promote the maximum efficiency of the cell-workers that attend to the extraction of fluid sunlight from chyle, and he will get well.

Virgo types are honest, thoughtful, contemplative and industrious. They need periods of isolation and silence more than any other types. They love order, and are usually able to keep it. They have high ideals, but though their heads are in the clouds, they usually have their feet on earth. Their tempers are often quick, but they are not very combative. They prefer arbitration to fighting, reason to force.

They are distinctly mental. Often they are great readers, and they are always eager to add to their store of knowledge. As a rule they are natural spellers, and have some skill at literary expression, especially in such forms as the essay and educational or scientific work. They learn quickly and easily, so that they seldom seem to work hard for knowledge.

Natives of Virgo are usually above middle stature. The head is a prominent feature. Its upper part is usually large, so that the face is kite-shaped, and often the chin is somewhat receding. The face is rather thin, and the complexion inclines to be sallow. Sometimes the eyes are light brown, but more commonly hazel or grey. Small feet and hands are characteristic. The feet frequently toe inward. The hands, as a rule, are dextrous.

The Virgo Sub-types

All Virgo people, when positively developed, are properly described by the key-words: serving, industrious, discriminating. Those born between August 23 and September 1 are predominantly mental. They delight in study, demand time to be by themselves for thoughtful consideration of life and their part in it, and have much discernment.

Those born between September 2 and September 11, unless highly developed, are the ones who are in greatest danger of morbid preoccupation with health matters. Among them are the diet cranks and faddists, the hypochondriacs, and the typical cold-hearted, pessimistic natives of Virgo whose negative expression of the Saturn vibration which rules the period in which they are born makes them grasping, fussy and mean. Developed natives born during this period are practical and perhaps always a little matter-of-fact, or at least they seem so to other people who are less methodical, prudent and calculating.

Those born between September 12 and September 22 combine the Venus influence with the Mercury vibration. They make the most expressive writers and speakers and have the most sympathetic understanding of other people. They are described as "chaste" because they are highly selective

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and discriminative. But they are almost invariably romantic.

The color of Virgo is yellow-green, and the musical tone is F. This is to be used for all the disorders peculiar to the Virgo region of the body, such as malnutrition, typhoid fever, cholera, appendicitis and peritonitis. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-eight

VIRGO (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Our Tarot Tableau for Virgo starts with Key No. 9, The Hermit, assigned to the zodiacal sign itself, and includes Key No. 1, The Magician, correlated with Mercury, ruler of Virgo and also exalted in Virgo. This is the only sign in the zodiac where the ruler and the planet of exaltation are the same. This has profound significance, as we will discover later in this lesson.

Virgo is an earth sign; therefore the ruler of each of the other earth signs is a partial ruler of this sign. The next earth sign after Virgo is Capricorn, ruled by Saturn, making Saturn (Key 21) ruler of the second decanate of Virgo and next in our Tableau. The earth sign following Capricorn is Taurus. Venus is the ruler of Taurus, so Venus rules the third decanate of Virgo, and Key No. 3, The Empress, completes our Tableau. This Tableau is one of the most profound. Every one, of course, is important. If we are to perfect our natures we must work with every one of them to become each type at will. These Tableaus can also help us understand other human beings. No matter what your sun sign is, if you can become the Virgo nature at will, in its positive aspects, you will have vastly increased insight into this zodiacal type and therefore can establish relationships that would have been impossible otherwise. This is true of all of the signs. It is most important, if we are to learn to handle all of these elements constructively, powerfully and properly, to continuously go around and around in the zodiacal tableaus in our own meditations.

First, we will give a brief analysis of the apparent outer characteristics of the Virgo type. Then we will give the esoteric aspects that are involved. The more recondite elements will be made clear when we study them in conjunction with Tarot.

The basic Virgo type is said to be serving, industrious and discriminating. Virgo is correlated with the natural sixth house of the zodiac, assigned to service. Therefore, the development of our ability to truly serve, whether it be our wives, our husbands, our friends, or life in general, has to do with the proper development of this part of our nature — our Virgo nature. This does not mean that all Virgos have this quality well developed. Whatever the positive characteristics are, if one is immature and undeveloped, they will be expressed immaturely, or even oppositely. However, even undeveloped Virgos usually have a tendency to want to serve in some manner or other. There is a basic need to do things for others. He who wants to serve and isn't given the opportunity to do so is quite miserable. Just as he who has a love nature and hasn't anyone around to love is unhappy, and he who has a gift and has no way to express it is miserable. God has made us in such a way that we have an absolute need to give from within. Even undeveloped types can have this need. Continuous taking from without causes a compression on the soul that finally explodes and develops the need to give from within out. I'm sure that all you advanced Builders have developed this need to a far greater degree than most, or there would not be this aspiration and drive to knowledge.

The tendency to be industrious is also a very important characteristic of the Virgo type. They love order and their houses will usually be the most spotless, or in polarity, the most littered. The Virgo nature is often extreme in this area. You are apt to find the kind of immaculate housekeeping that will drive everyone crazy. You can't even enjoy a cigarette in their homes. If you flick an ash in the tray, they'll jump up and empty it, wash and dry it, and bring it back before you have even finished the cigarette. Whenever you see this great over-enthusiasm for cleanliness, even though cleanliness is certainly an admirable trait, it is often a projection of one's own inner feeling of being dirty that is behind it. It is an unhappy state to be in, and any who have this tendency would do well to meditate on the Virgo Tableau in order to bring balance into their natures and the feeling of purity that comes with understanding.

Virgos also have a tremendous ability for handling details; they learn quickly, pick up ideas rapidly and accomplish great things that have to do with mental-motor coordination. Any with these attributes, even if they are not Virgo sun types, will find that the sixth house or other planets in Virgo are emphasized in their natal charts. Virgo rising or the Moon in Virgo can also give these abilities. Any employer who has a Virgo secretary is lucky. They take such wonderful care of all details. Remember though, the difference in our approach is that we don't have to have anything in Virgo, basically. If we work with this Tableau, we will develop all the positive qualities.

The first decanate of Virgo is between August 23 and September 1. Those born in this period are the Mercury-Mercury type. Mercury is also exalted in Virgo; therefore there is a tremendous concentration of Mercury in this decanate. The subdivision calls this type studious, thoughtful and discerning. You can see why. Mercury, which is attention (the intellectual mind) gives them the ability to truly concentrate. This we must all do — develop the ability to concentrate and give definite attention. Mercury is assigned to the pair of opposites — life and death. That to which you give your attention becomes a living experience. When one is unable to focus attention, livingness can be very empty. This Virgo type gives special ability for studiousness and thoughtfulness, which in turn give a discerning nature. When you watch, when you are aware, you develop this capacity for discernment, and this is a major attribute in understanding others. Watchfulness implies the ability to pay attention to others instead of being overly concerned with the effect we are making upon them. The idea is to concentrate on whomever you are with or on whatever you are doing. Listen to the person. Be aware of what he is saying and of his expressions. This Tableau helps you deepen your capacity for discernment, keen awareness and accurate gathering of knowledge. All these processes, as you can readily see, are absolutely essential in occult development.

Too often the mind is disparaged in occult schools of thought. They teach that we must rid ourselves of thinking and depend completely upon intuition. You have probably known some who have followed this idea. They often say, "Oh, I don't bother with study. I let my intuition guide me in everything." Have you ever noticed the kind of mess their lives are in? They might call it intuition, but this can be a lazy way to rationalize their being nothing but a subconscious automatic reactor and calling it "my intuition". It may make them feel spiritual, but in a sense they are not here.

They are just in a muddle. God gave us a mentality to develop. It is only to the degree that we develop our intellects that we are able to become aware and attentive. Our minds are the instruments for self-conscious awareness, and they are to be revered. Through our minds we develop the ability to watch and to be attentive. The highly developed Virgo type display an unusual ability for acute perception of subtle details that others miss. Because of this awareness of details, undeveloped types are likely to be super-critical of others. Either way, they perceive more details. Usually when we find that others do not understand us, it is because we have not been watching attentively enough to become aware of their reactions and responses. When we become aware of how they are responding to us, we will know if they are understanding us. If we want to be understood, we have to start understanding. This means using this studious, thoughtful, discerning element in our natures that is particularly highlighted in the first decanate of Virgo.

The second decanate Virgo has Saturn as sub-ruler. Here we have an interesting combination. This decanate are said to be methodical, prudent and calculating. Many mistake the second decanate Virgo for a Capricorn. Negative Capricorns can have the most calculating nature in the whole zodiac. Their attentiveness is focused on what they can get for their own benefit. Conniving is another word for this trait. Of course, the highly developed Capricorn is just the opposite. They are full of love and thoughtful givingness. The calculating element in the Virgo type can be quite startling when it is prominent. We have to be watchful of all these traits in ourselves. We want to be very careful to use our attentiveness, the Mercurial vibration in Virgo, to become aware of any calculating elements in our own nature.

In THE PROPHET, by Kahlil Gibran, he speaks of those who give but their giving is not from the heart. They are giving in order to get. This is a most unhappy state. This type of personality is continuously bitter. They acquire frozen, narrow expressions. Their disapproving natures become etched into their faces as they become older. Your evolutionary level and basic attitude toward life, incidentally, become a fixed expression after about the age of thirty-five. If you become properly discerning, you will discover much just by looking at the expressions on people's faces. You can become aware of whom you can trust and whom you cannot really trust. We do live in a world where humanity as a whole is still very, very immature. We do have to learn how to be on guard for their sake, as well as for our own. In other words, if we know a person is a thief and we leave money or valuables around, we are just as guilty as he for the theft that takes place. We should be able to discern other's capabilities and weaknesses without condemnation, without sitting in judgment. We should be able to recognize the need for keeping matches out of the reach of three-year-old children. We should also be able to see that there are some people we cannot put our faith in. If we do get hurt, we must learn to say, "I must develop my discernment. It is not his fault. I was lacking in judgment." That is the only way we are going to grow and evolve and transmute, by not letting ourselves start beating the drum against the inadequacies of others. This type of response only adds fuel to the fire and we actually take on some of the characteristics we condemn. With the second decanate Virgo this negative element can express itself. However, on the positive side they can be most magnificent in business management, and they are invariably trustworthy and dependable.

The third decanate Virgo has Venus as sub-ruler. These are the Mercury-Venus types. Here we find emphasized another Virgo characteristic. The positive elements of this decanate are chaste, romantic and selective. It is with the third decanate Virgo native that you usually find very sharply defined attitudes towards the sex function. It also holds true for certain other planetary placings in this decanate. In this Virgo sub-type we often find the very prim virgins. Actually, people can be married fifty years and still be prudish virgins as far as having entered into the spirit of unity and livingness is concerned. We can also find the opposite here — complete abandon and promiscuity toward sex without any discrimination at all. Both these extremes are in polarity to what the Virgo idea really implies.

On the positive side these Virgos can express a sense of purity toward sex which in a way might be thought of as it is referred to in Qabalah: "The eternal Virgin, forever pure and undefiled." It doesn't mean what is ordinarily meant by Virgin. The "eternal Virgin" refers to a sacred attitude toward sex. It is expressed by human beings who have evolved such a state of reverence, beauty and sacredness about the principles of polarity that in love and sex expression they emanate a purity of thought similar to that of the small child. Sex expression, in these highly evolved Virgos, is seen as a sacrament of God. Third decanate Virgos can express this quality more readily than any other types. They have the ability to look upon union as an expression of the universal principle of creation. True purity is not withdrawing from the material world and all physical responses. The people who degrade sex expression are very impure because they are interpreting the unity of life as something ugly and unclean. In essence, of course, we have come through many incarnations, all of us. We have, undoubtedly, been many things. Perhaps each of us has had to be both a prostitute and a disparaging celibate in order to finally develop the proper attitudes, in order to finally understand the meaning of the eternal virgin. The Messiah was said to have a special fondness for sinners. They at least had enough drive to get out there and live. And with that drive, they started perceiving hidden aspects of consciousness. The same drive which made them go in for so much nonsense, which made them scatter themselves indiscriminately, finally would bring them to a true understanding of the unity of life in all of its expressions. So it is very important not to let ourselves engage in the gossiping about the so-called morals of others that is so predominant in our society. Gossiping of this kind exposes our own impurity. We should just have compassion for those who have not learned how to revere and express certain elements in their natures with beauty and discrimination. We should have even more compassion for those who think they are pure because they have never known desire for a member of the opposite sex, or at least have never admitted it. Actually, this desire is for the other half of our beingness as God created us.

In the third decanate type you will find the 'selective' element most easily developed. These are the ones who have evolved a truly idealistic attitude and response, based on universal principles, toward these God-glorious sexual energies. Those who have this response will certainly be selective. They will not throw their pearls before swine. They will not enter into any relationships where they will magnetically absorb impurity of thoughts or guilt complexes. They will be able to withstand and refute the feelings of ugliness rampant in the world regarding a force that all should

hold as sacred and beautiful. One must be selective because one becomes and partakes of all the various subtle elements in all acts of union, whether it be between friends, relatives or in the area of romantic love. All are union, a back-and-forth flow and inter-permeation. However, sex love, being the closest, is the most susceptible to the back and forth permeation of the subtle forces. We most assuredly do absorb elements from others as well as project them. Here, we run into a little danger in realizing that there is this necessity of selectiveness. We risk the temptation of thinking of ourselves as being superior, spiritually and emotionally. You have to watch your own emotions and attitudes and realize that it is a necessity of spiritual growth. We do not expose ourselves to psychic permeations that can hinder us. If you have noticed, for instance, people who hang around bars become imbued with certain types of speech and attitudes. People who live together take on each other's thoughts and attitudes very specifically. We all participate and partake of each other in an interpermeating flow.

As aspirants endeavoring to transmute all the nonsense that the race mind has put into our natures and trying to become pure channels for the expressions of higher levels of consciousness, we have to be careful not to expose ourselves - as a regular pattern - to the kinds of friendships that open us to ugly responses to life. We are truly members of the cosmos; we are not separated from any other part of it. We absorb into ourselves cosmic rays from vast distances of the universe, and everything is an aspect of consciousness. We emanate electrons all of the time. Everything that we call physical is merely a more compressed aspect of consciousness, held together by the soul or spirit into what we experience as our body. So, our bodies are a spiritual substance being held together by the spirit or soul. We emanate out what we are in our thinking, our feeling and our doing. And what others are is emanated back to us. This goes on all the time. We cannot separate ourselves from the prostitute, the thief, the murderer, the saint or the beloved. We cannot really separate ourselves from anyone. Whatever all of humanity is - we are, in greater or lesser degree. In our own little field of work, study, meditation and living, however, we should be careful to be with those who will emanate that which is more in accord with our ideals and aspirations. Naturally, we will emanate back, and we will strengthen each other in all our ways. Among B.O.T.A. students, whether personally known to each other or not, there is a most intensive bond of interchange occurring on the subtle levels.

Let us consider Virgo in relation to Key No. 9. People look at The Hermit and wonder why it should be assigned to Virgo. They are used to seeing a woman symbolizing a virgin connected with this sign. There is a profound esoteric reason for this. All of livingness comes from and is involved with that universal energy which, on the physical plane, is the procreative energy, the sex energy, also called the libido. All our aspirations toward superconscious states and all our efforts to control the various powers of man are involved with getting to understand this energy, learning how to handle it, and learning to transmute our attitudes and feelings about it. We must realize that everything we are is a development from this energy. All evolution is actually an expression of this energy — the re-productive energy. God's creative energy. That is how God creates on all levels. It expresses itself in one way on one level and in another way on another level. Key No. 9 symbolizes the actual perfection of attitudes that

relate to this energy. The Hermit personifies a Master of Compassion. Remember, a Master of Compassion is either male or female. He is holding a six-rayed star, the star of David. In Hebrew, David means beloved. It is the perfected union of opposites on any and every level. The Hermit appears austere, and yet he is full of warmth because he is holding out the lamp of love, the six-rayed star. He is holding out the Lamp of love to those who are toiling up the mountain. He has no reason for doing it except love. What other reason can there be but compassion and love? Who are those struggling up the mountain? We are the ones. We are struggling up the mountain of attainment. You might also call the Hermit the Higher Self. He personifies the Higher Self of all of us, guiding us with love into reverence and appreciation for the creative power of God.

Key 9 is assigned to the Hebrew letter Yod. This letter is the fiery letter that is a part of every other one of the Hebrew letters. This is symbolizing the fiery energy, the life energy, the energy that creates and procreates on every level. It is this energy that is a part of all livingness. Virgo's being assigned to it intimates what the proper attitude toward this energy should be. Those who have attained real love have the purity of heart which we must all develop if we would attain to our greatest and deepest desires; if we would attain to that which our soul is pushing us towards every moment. As we progress, our soul pushes us into some very strange highways and byways, but these are merely steps toward the final purification. They give us the insights into the true nature of this force that eventually leads us to our final goal. Whenever human consciousness comes to really feel this attitude of the eternal virgin, forever pure and undefiled . . . truly feels this and sees it wherever he or she looks . . . then and then only does true compassion develop. Only then is the personality able to participate in the upper levels of knowingness, into true serenity and peace of mind and heart. How can we ever know peace of mind and heart if we are in conflict over our actions and thoughts, over our feelings and drives? We will remain in conflict until we learn how to understand and react as this Key indicates, guided by the Star of Love in all of our actions and thoughts.

In Tarot Key No. 1, The Magician, assigned to Mercury, the ruler of Virgo, the central figure is holding a staff which is obviously a phallic symbol. Actually your every act of attention is the evolution of this same energy. It has evolved through the ages the instrument, your brain, which is able to express self-consciousness and attention. This is the force that helps us to develop the ability for true attention. The phallic force is shown as drawing from above, from God, and expressing below for the transmutation of subconsciousness. Attention is control of mind. It is a limitation of the thought process, so that it does not keep changing images and thoughts. It is concentrated because it is performing magic. We cannot begin to tell you how important it is to acknowledge to yourself that everything in existence is an expression of the One Energy and to start revering this energy in you. Without this acknowledgement and reverence it will be impossible for you to really attain your goals of illumination. Every act of love and hate, no matter on what level, every act of thought in meditation, every act of kindness or unkindness . . . all these are expressions of this energy. In fact, it is the only energy that there is. It is the compression of this energy, the deliberate limitation of it into trained channels within ourselves, that

leads us to Union with God. As we develop the reverential attitude, the doorways are opened to us because we automatically free these energies in ourselves. To the degree that we continue in the irreverent attitudes that man has in general, to that degree do we keep ourselves from having conscious union with God.

When this energy is unduly suppressed, it tends to atrophy. This is not the way to attainment. It is not the way to development of satisfactory relationships with others. Undue oppression kills our ability to feel the depths of profound emotion. That is why in the Virgo type, on the negative side, we find so much coldness. The warm outrush of emotions that gives us impetus and compassion depends on training and control, not suppression. Third decanate Virgos, sub-ruled by Venus, have the ability to become really creative if they are able to free this energy from images of ugliness and see it in its true light as being the expression of the Cosmic Love Force. The imagination can then utilize this energy towards fulfilling the goals we set for ourselves, fulfilling our desires toward attaining ever higher levels of conscious awareness.

TECHNIQUE

The Tableau for Virgo is comprised of Keys No. 9, 1, 21 and 3. The color for Virgo is yellow-green, and the note is F-natural. Image yourself as surrounded and filled with this color as you intone the note. In your mind go over the positive Virgo characteristics: ability to serve, discrimination, mental alertness, idealistic understanding of the creative force, etc. Proceed to the planetary forces that are highlighted in this zodiacal type, with special emphasis on Mercury because of its exaltation in Virgo. Image the corresponding colors and intone the proper notes. Meditation on this Tableau will help develop the positive qualities of the Virgo personality type.

AFFIRMATION

I am one with all of the creative energy in the universe. As this energy is concentrated through the vehicle of my personality, my understanding expands, my discrimination increases, my awareness becomes keener, and the true benevolence of life finds free expression through me. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Thirty-nine

LIBRA (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Libra and Tarot Key No. 11, Justice, represent the individuality types of persons born between September 23 and October 21. Libra is the second of the airy signs. It has the same fundamental elementary quality as the signs Gemini and Aquarius. To it, therefore, you may apply the remarks about the element air which are made in our lessons on Gemini. There, you will remember, I said that the The Fool, Tarot Key 0, represents a quality which finds special expression in the signs just mentioned. The Fool also stands for the occult force which we call the Fiery Intelligence.

Poise is the aspect of the airy force which is emphasized by Libra and Justice. The Fool stands poised on the brink of a precipice. He is the Life-power on the verge of its descent into the conditions of physical existence. The picture of Justice represents the operation of that same force, after it has involved itself in the states of Name and Form which we call the physical plane.

Many details in the design of the eleventh major trump show this. For example, the woman sits on a cubical stone seat, which is flanked by stone pillars rising from a stone floor. Straight lines and right angles, always symbolic of physical manifestation, abound in the picture. The woman's crown has a square jewel and three square projections. Her cape is fastened by a square brooch. The balances in her left hand are at rest, so that they show a right angle. So does the T-shaped handle of her sword.

Your Tableau, however, says that because this picture corresponds to Lamed, it also represents Work, or Action. Thus it is evident that the poise here portrayed cannot be mere motionless fixity. On the contrary, it is the coordination of numberless modes of intense activity, the correlation of wheels within wheels of the universal 'spiral force'. Hence the straight lines and right angles in the design are combined with many circle symbols. The veil between the pillars shows a curve which is the lower segment of a circle. The crown itself is a ring. The pillars are cylindrical. Their bases are circular. The lines of the sword-hilt terminate in circles. The pans of the scales are round. The white, square brooch encloses a red circular jewel.

All this is perfectly obvious when one looks attentively at the picture. The many repetitions of circle and square are too numerous to be accidental. In other words, the designs show plainly the essential elements of the astrological symbol of the planet Venus, a circle surmounting straight lines so disposed that they form four right angles. This combination is also one of the many glyphs for the Great Name I H V H, which according to Hebrew wisdom is likewise represented by the letter Aleph.

The letter-name, Lamed, is spelled with Hebrew letters which in Roman characters may be represented as L M D (ל מ ד, Lamed). L is 30, M is 40, and D is 4, so that the total value of the word is 74. This is the

numeration of the Hebrew words D I I N (ד'י'ן, Deen), a leader, chief, judge; S B I B (ס'ב'ב, Sabib), a circuit; and O D (א'ד, Ode), all the way, constantly. Observe how these words correspond to: the title of the eleventh major trump (D I I N, Justice); the idea of circular movement repeated so many times in the symbols (S B I B, a circuit); and the idea of faithfulness or constancy (O D, constantly) indicated by the attribution of Faithful Intelligence to this card.

I have included these details concerning some of the deeper meanings of this Key in order to stimulate your subconscious associative processes. This particular group of lessons has to do with esoteric astrology, remember, and although the full force of what has been said may not be apparent to you as you read these lines, I know what seeds will be planted in your subconsciousness by even a brief consideration of these correspondences; and what subconscious responses, even to the building of new brain-cells, will occur in consequence. The remainder of the lesson will discuss the characteristics of the Libran type.

The key-words given in the chart are: artistic, just, cooperative. The artistic quality comes from the rulership of Venus in this sign. A keen sense of justice is also a characteristic Libran quality, and natives of this sign are usually a little 'touchy' on this point. They are never so affronted as when their motives are questioned. This is true, no matter how distorted their ideas of justice may be. According to what comprehension they have, they always intend to be just, and while it is possible to approach them tactfully with criticisms of their standards of justice, it is useless to make any direct attack whatever upon their opinions or actions, if the opening of that attack be the direct or implied statement that those opinions or actions are unjust.

Librans love peace and harmony. On this account the undeveloped types are sometimes too ready to agree with other people and fall in with their ways, for the sake of avoiding friction. They are courteous, pleasant and agreeable. Usually their tempers are under good control, but sometimes they amaze their associates by outbursts of devastating anger.

Being under the rulership of Venus, they are emotional, temperamental and artistic. Their love-nature is intense, and they are usually very affectionate. Until they learn to control it, the Saturn element which is strong in their make-up inclines them to fits of blues. Indeed, the undeveloped Libran is a moody person, rising suddenly to heights of joy and descending as suddenly to depths of despair.

Librans should never engage in messy, dirty work. Sometimes they will take up hard physical labor, for a short period, for some particular reason. As a rule, however, they do better with work that requires neatness and precision and gives exercise for their large faculty of comparison. Many Librans are writers. Many are musicians. They also find success as teachers, lecturers and, if they have had good business training, as salesmen.

Libra rules the kidneys, the lumbar region of the spine, the vasomotor system, and the skin. It also rules the suprarenals, and has some influence upon the gonads, or sex-glands. The color of the sign, green,

and the note F-sharp, are indicated for diseases of this area, such as Bright's disease, dizziness, eczema, skin eruptions, inflammation of kidneys, ureters and ovaries, lumbago, uremia and polyuria.

Librans usually have elegant, pleasant figures. In youth they are slender, but even the added weight which they sometimes take on with advancing years seldom detracts from their good appearance. They usually have fine skin, well-shaped, expressive hands, and large, luminous eyes. The mouth is attractive, although not always especially strong. Often there is found the characteristic Venusian sign of a cleft chin. This should be distinguished from the dimpled chin and cheeks which are more often the Venusian signs of Taurus.

The Libran Sub-types

People born between September 23 and October 1 are described in the chart by the key-words: fastidious, refined, aesthetic. They are beauty lovers, and are at their best in work where they are surrounded by harmony and cultured pleasures and amusements and are often found in the ranks of those who make professional success in such things. They love company and dislike to be alone, unless they are beset by one of their 'blue fits'. Then they love seclusion and revel artistically in being thoroughly and completely miserable.

People born between October 2 and 11 have combined with the Venus vibration the influences of Uranus and Saturn. They are usually more inclined to extremes of mood than natives of either of the other Libran sub-types. The chart gives the key-words as: modest, orderly, imaginative. Occasionally the modesty goes to extremes of self-depreciation, and these people have to be boosted along by the good opinion of other people before they will venture to express their talents. Orderly they are, but it might be a little more accurate to describe them as 'lovers of order'. For when they are in a pressure of work, they can fill a workroom, for example, with every external evidence of confusion. Yet in spite of the apparent disorder, they are usually mentally precise and have good memories, so that they generally can tell the exact location of any of their possessions. Under the influence of Saturn, their imaginativeness is far from mere fancifulness. They have very concrete, definite images; and thus they are usually interested in the practical application of whatever knowledge they may have.

People born between October 12 and 21 are the most mental of the Libran types. They are also the most reasonable, for the alert watchfulness of actual conditions which is represented by Mercury, the ruler of their birth-period, and by the Magician in Tarot, is combined with the Venusian quality of imagination. This is why the key-words are: logical, perceptive, impartial. They succeed best in work where they are perfectly free to state things as they see them. They play no favorites, and are often accused of being too critical, simply because they do not hesitate to give honest expression to their views, no matter what others may think. This does not mean that they are blatantly self-assertive. On the contrary, they keep their own counsel better than most Librans. But if their opinion is asked, they say exactly what they think, honestly and courageously. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty

LIBRA (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Tarot Key No. 11, Justice, is associated with the zodiacal sign Libra. Libra, called the Scales, has a great deal to do with work or Karma. Likewise Key 11, in its symbolism and Qabalistic attributions, correlates with this same idea of work or Karma. Scales balance weight just as Karma is the balance of action and reaction. Our acts, our works, react upon us for either good or ill, joy or sorrow, wealth or poverty. There is a continuous re-establishment of universal balance. We see this same principle at work in the vastness of nebulae, stars and solar systems. Everywhere in the universe there is a continuous re-establishment of balance taking place. The suns whirl around the central nucleus of the nebulae; the planets whirl around the suns; the electrons whirl around the nucleus of the atoms; all of these are being maintained by a balance of forces, an attraction and repulsion, by electro-magnetic polarity. Libra is ruled by Venus, the planet of love. The same attraction and balance of forces active in love are at work in maintaining the balance of universal forces. This correlation of work, or Karma, and love is a vital one to understand. We will return to this idea later in the lesson when we take up the more esoteric aspects.

Libra is called the balance of the zodiac. It has to do with that part of our natures which knows how to balance the extremes of all things. Let's now go into the personality types as they are related to our Libra Tableau: All Librans are aligned with the element of air. Actually, these elemental attributions have to do with intelligent entities known as the elemental beings — gnomes, sylphs, undines and salamanders. The gnomes are the elemental consciousness assigned to earth; therefore all the earth signs partake somewhat of the qualities of the gnomes. The fire signs are ruled by the salamanders; the undines are aligned with all of the water signs; while the sylphs are the elemental forms of consciousness correlated with the air signs. Everything is consciousness. You may be experiencing something as a physical thing, but actually all physical phenomena are different rates of whirling motion which affect our sensory apparatus in different ways. All forms are made up of atoms, which in turn are made up of astral light.

There is nothing which is not consciousness in different graduations from the latent consciousness of mineral forms, on up through the vegetable kingdom, to animal and man. All the elements are involved in the building of the vehicle. They symbolize hierarchies of consciousness. You have probably read in occult literature about the spiritual devas or nature spirits. The Devas are the heads of the elemental beings. They most assuredly have consciousness, although it is other than human. I have experienced them many a time. This is not unusual; many people have experienced them and are able to see elemental beings. People are given to seeing gnomes more than the others. What is actually seen is a sort of etheric astral vehicle which works with the force field that builds and holds forms, because it is a consciousness. Elementals do not have physical vehicles, but they do have astral vehicles which sensitive people are often aware of. Intelligent entities are behind all creation. All physical things were first created

mentally and in time became physical objects through control of the elemental forces. Thought creates because it has been schooled and trained in manipulating the limitations we call physical matter. All physical experiences and objects are just the way we experience certain vortexes of the universal substance. As we grow to understand this, we become more powerful with our mental creations. We become creators not just by painting a beautiful picture or playing a lovely song, but by seeing that everything we do is a creation, whether it be washing a dish or reacting with ecstasy to the song of a bird. All this is creation because it is a response in the mind.

Creative ability is not only important during an incarnation to make it a richer, fuller life; it is also important to have developed this ability when we drop our physical vehicle. On the more subtle levels we can build with our minds easily if we have developed the ability here. Those who have been materialistic, who have not exercised mental creation, have a pretty rough time when they die because their minds have just been grey, dull and bound. They find themselves in a terrible twilight for a time because whatever you are here, you are there. As we keep reincarnating, we become ever more adept at creating properly and ecstatically, with dedication and love. That is the secret behind everything, as I am sure you are recognizing by now.

Those born between September 23 and October 1, the first decanate of Libra, are intensely influenced by the Venusian vibration and are the most typical of the basic Libran nature. The second decanate of Libra, October 2 to October 11, is ruled by Uranus and Saturn. The third decanate, from October 12 to October 21 is ruled by Mercury. Saturn is exalted in Libra, so Saturn has a strong influence in this sign. When a planet is exalted it means that those functions of consciousness, those principles of awareness that have to do with that planet, find an easier way for their highest expressions in that particular sign. So those who have Saturn in Libra in their birth chart find it much easier to cope with the Saturn part of their nature, the limiting aspect that deals with practical things.

Librans, as a whole, can be most impractical. Because the scales that symbolize Libra intimate balance, Librans can be quite unbalanced in their emotional upheavals. This is because they swing with the scales, like a see-saw. Librans are more given to heights of joy and ecstasy and then depths of despair than almost any other sign outside of Capricorn. Capricorns do not have the same heights that the Libran can, but they certainly have the depths. This is the Saturnine influence. Librans swing from mood to mood. This is one of their greatest problems. Any of you who are closely related to a Libran, or if you are a Libran yourself, should get to understand this tendency. The most important problem Librans have is getting the scales balanced so that they are not so susceptible to environmental changes.

Because of this susceptibility Librans are said to be tremendous appeasers. Even well-developed natives are given more than most to appeasing others because peace and harmony are so important to them. They cannot bear dissention. It tears them apart. They cannot bear any kind of conflict basically, so they will appease. If they are talking to a Republican for example, the Republican will think that he has been conversing with a

fellow Republican. The Libran hasn't really said he was, but he hasn't said he wasn't. He seemed to agree. If the Libran converses with a Democrat, five minutes later the Democrat will think he is a fellow Democrat. In essence, the Libran is probably not either, because he finds it difficult to be anything too intensively. He has such a sense of the pairs of opposites, the two sides of any question, that it is difficult for him to fanatically be anything at all. It isn't that he is a hypocrite, although he might appear so to people who have more fixed notions. It is their need for peace of mind and pleasant relationships that makes them agreeable almost to a fault. Actually, however, they may not really be agreeing with you because inside they have their own center, swing though they may, very strongly defined. This center, although well defined, is very rarely fixated because they so readily see both sides of a question. Yet despite this loving ability to understand both sides, there are times when the Libran can be given to such tremendous outbursts of anger that he can frighten you. This is especially noticeable because he is usually so sweet, gentle and thoughtful. When he does have these upsurges, it is because his sense of justice has been outraged. With a Libran, whatever you do, do not ever impune his motives or his sense of justice. Approach him occasionally as to the grounds for certain ideas he holds (or as to why he thinks this or that) and he will listen with reason if you approached tactfully. You can change his reason for having decided a certain thing is just or unjust; but the moment you question his motives towards justice, you are liable to get a storm.

The basic Libran temperament is given as: artistic, just, cooperative. Actually any chart showing strong Venusian influences is indicative of tremendous artistic talents. Taurians are also artistic, but usually along more practical lines. Librans have a tendency toward the finer types of creative work. Anyone who has strong planetary placings in Libra would also have these abilities. Librans love beauty as a necessity of life, and they usually dress very well because their appearance is very important to them. When they are in an unlovely environment they are quite miserable. If any of you female Builders are married to a Libran man, you will do well to see that he is surrounded with beauty. Librans love meals served elegantly with candles and white tablecloth. Charming settings feed their soul. You male Builders, if married to a Libran woman, will please her if you bring flowers and charming trinkets as a token of your love. Librans can teach all of us how to appreciate gracious living and the subtleties of beauty which we often, in the turmoil of life, overlook. We tend to think these things are of secondary importance. We should remember that God has gone to a lot of trouble to create beauty. We fail ourselves and those surrounding us when we do not do everything possible to be beautiful, both inside and outside. We actually owe it to life to be beautiful. Of course, the greatest beauty is when we learn to love. Then beauty shines out from our eyes. When we have that kind of love, it will express through the personality, through careful attention to the outer as well as the inner being. This is truly balancing the scales, giving due consideration to all the aspects of our beingness.

The first decanate Librans, September 23 to October 1 are given the highlights of: esthetic, refined, fastidious. This aspect comes in because of the double Venus rulership. These attributions correlate with what astrologers say about Librans as being the greatest lovers in the world. An astrologer friend of mine said to me, "Librans make wonderful

sweethearts, but are not too suited to marriage." I asked her why she thought this was so. She said that most Librans are so enchanted with romance that she wouldn't trust their fidelity. I think she exaggerated. I do not believe that Librans are any more inclined to unfaithfulness than others. It is just that they love beauty and the romantic approach so much, that if they do not find it at home they are apt to let their eyes stray perhaps a little more readily than others. The Libran needs the romantic, the sentimental, the beautiful, to an extreme degree. He has a very intense love nature and has a need to love and be loved all in terms of beauty. Librans are apt to speak poetically in relation to romance, similar to the more classical love stories. It is the Libran part of our nature that is the most likely to express poetically. It becomes important, therefore, to develop this, because we want to learn how to express our love with graciousness and charm instead of with gruffness. Most men, once they say to a woman, "I love you; will you marry me", figure they have told her once and for all. They become very confused and bewildered if the wife later becomes unhappy because he does not repeat his affirmations of love after marriage. He will say, "What is the matter with you? I married you, didn't I?" That is not living life artistically, and the Libran, least of all, can bear this undemonstrative kind of love. None of us should settle for it. We should all decide to be artistic lovers of life, to make our husbands and wives and friends happy because we express our feelings regularly. Each day is a new day and a new birth. Each day needs a tender word of love and appreciation.

The second decanate Libran has the most intensive tendency toward the heights of joy and the depths of despair that we mentioned earlier. They are said to be imaginative, orderly, modest. The orderliness and modesty are particularly related to the Saturn influence because Saturn gives a wonderful ability for thinking ahead and for good organization in practical ways. In the Libran type this orderliness expresses through the mind. They may be working in seeming confusion, but they have a great mental orderliness and a perceptive kind of understanding. Second decanate Librans are more inclined to modesty than other Librans, who in general are not given to modesty. However, we must distinguish true modesty from false modesty. Modesty is often used as a cloak to cover up exactly the opposite. There is a part of all of us that is ego-centric. At heart we are enraged if somebody does not recognize how magnificent we are, whether it be our mental faculties or our emotional depth or our physical powers. We all have this tendency. Actually it stems from an intuitive knowledge that we are amazingly glorious and wonderful. The trouble is that we attribute it to the personality expression instead of to the Higher Self. The personality is still undeveloped and cannot be as wonderful as our egomania calls for. When we understand this tendency we can develop a smile and a chuckle at our own needs. When we see it in ourselves it is no longer a serious problem. We can even have some fun with it. We can feel free to tell others how marvelous we are. And do you know what? They will usually agree with us and mean it! They realize that we are not taking ourselves too seriously. When we take ourselves too seriously, whatever modesty we present is false modesty. Just the fact that we are so self-serious shows that we are putting an over-importance on whatever it is that we think we are. We are so much more, actually. We are infinite, immortal aspects of God. We are growing ourselves an instrument through which that immortal, glorious aspect can

consciously function and can become a co-creator with God. That is our destiny. Perhaps not in this incarnation, but in time. That is what we are working for. We don't have to have false modesty. Know what you are and you will be able to see what you need to develop. This is a most necessary first step to self understanding.

Third decanate Librans are said to be: logical, perceptive, impartial. The reason for these attributions is that with Mercury as sub-ruler you have the combined forces of Venus and Mercury giving the imaginative faculty an intellectual guidance. This in turn gives a beautiful ability for logic. Here it may be pertinent to say that the logic of women is different from that of men. Actually both are logical in the ways they are biologically conditioned to. This difference in approach to logic is as it should be. We should all give reverence and respect to the other aspect of God. If men and women were not different, life would be very boring. We wouldn't be forever looking to the other to reveal the hidden aspects of our own nature. The very difference that bewilders, confuses, or even annoys, is the heart and principle of the thing that delights . . . the eternal mystery to be solved. The logic of women, though not as direct, is just as valid as that of men and actually more complex. The kind of consciousness we express is conditioned by the vehicle that is expressing it. We are all expressing consciousness through a field which is shown by the body we are functioning through. Our vehicle likewise determines what we are going to experience and how we are going to react to experience. The kind of ears we have, for example, determines what range of vibrations is audible to us. In like manner the difference between the male and female vehicle makes a difference in how we express consciousness. The female body is more complex because it is made to bear children. Because of this complexity, the female utilizes nerve currents that the male does not. Women are more given to intuition than men, so they arrive at their logic after another fashion. Of course, there are plenty of men who are very intuitive, especially when highly developed. As we evolve we become more able to register the positive qualities from the opposite polarity of God. As we learn to see the differences between the sexes and revere them, we develop more and more of the true logic and true perception that are a particular attribute of the highly developed third decanate Libran.

Now we will give you some of the esoteric elements involved with Tarot Key No. 11 and the Libra Tableau. Key 11 balances the zodiac. This Key has to do with our ability to perceive universal principles as they unfold within us and to meet life in terms of these principles. In ordinary man, his narrow band of response and his inability to relate himself to the whole is what brings him so many tears, so much frustration and heart-ache. Our work, or Karma, is at the heart of the problems in our lives at all times. We must learn how to balance these energies constructively so as not to be the pawn of these forces.

Equilibrium, as we have so often been told, is the secret of the Great Work. It is the secret of attainment in all things. We want to understand what is meant by work or Karma. Karma is something that many people consider to be only adverse. You often hear occultists speak of it as something inevitable, that must be born stoically. "I guess this is my Karma", they will say about some problem. This is a wrong approach. This type of statement gives subconsciousness the idea that Karma is always

an unhappy thing and tends to build more of the same. Karma is not in itself an unhappy thing. It is action and reaction. It is the balancing of the scales. It has to do with personal development and balance. It also has to do with the development and balance of every atom, every electron, every planet, every sun in the outreaches of space. In our physical vehicle there is a continuous readjustment for balance and equilibrium. The minute we breathe in a detrimental germ, if our body is at peace, forces are gathered together to eliminate the germ and the body maintains its equilibrium. Imbalance of forces is behind all our mental, emotional and physical illnesses. The secret of balance is always in our basic mental and emotional response to life experience.

The section on work in THE PROPHEET by Kahlil Gibran expresses in poetic language what our attitude toward work should be. We would like to elaborate a little on this idea to show how so many react to their own detriment. Some of us think that whatever work we are doing is below our abilities. Then our unhappiness distills a poison into the work and into ourselves. He who loves God loves what he is doing because he is loving life. He knows that whatever he is doing is a work of magic. It becomes magical only if you make it magical, and only you can do it. If what you do, whether it be fixing shoes, selling cars or washing dishes is considered a privilege that God has given you so that you may serve life, you will be developing the ability to serve in more direct areas as time goes on. You will be developing more ability because you will have seen the beauty and fullness of service in any area, whether glamorous or not. If you look with scorn on whatever you are doing, scorn will be your reward. This is the adjustment of the balance.

If you look with despair upon your place in life, despair will be your reward and you will be sending this despair to your fellow creatures. This is not love. Your attitude toward life becomes very important if you want to transmute your Karma — and you can. If you could not, life would be rather hopeless. You can transmute your Karma, but you do not transmute it in the ways that you think. You do not transmute it by saying, "I want to wipe out my Karma - bring it on." This attitude creates more and more problems and despair. I should know. When I was young and first came upon the idea of Karma, I decided that the best approach was to invite problems and misery and get them over with. With proper stoicism I cried, "Bring it on!" All hell broke loose. What I had said in essence was, "I want to be miserable", and forthwith I began reaping the Karmic rewards in reverse. As you can see, I had to go through a lot of nonsense in order to help all of you avoid it, at least to some degree.

How are we going to stop reaping the Karmic rewards in reverse? It is really very simple. We have to watch the way we respond to what we do, what we think and how we feel, and equilibrate them. We must balance the scales by bringing love and tenderness, patience and faith into our responses to whatever is happening to us, whatever we are doing. We must be able to say in essence, "I thank you, Lord of the Universe, for the ability and capacity to express my livingness in whatever way is presented to me." With this attitude you are projecting a loving gratitude that enriches all of life. In this universe we are all tied up together. We are a universe within a universe. Our every thought, every emotion, is part of the whole. With every response to experience we are pouring out our emotions and thoughts,

making it essential for others, who pick them up, to give like thoughts and emotions back to us. What do you want to get back? Riches, love, joy and fulfillment — or misery, sorrow, pain and frustration? If you emanate frustration and bitterness, they will keep returning to you. You are actually demanding them from the universe. This is the real Karma, and transmuting your Karma is loving what you do. As you love what you do, you will be given opportunities by life itself to do ever more. You will be expanding in consciousness, expanding your capacity to live, to do, and to serve.

If you hold on to the patterns of misery from yesterday, you will keep yesterday coming back in ever recurrent patterns. That is the bitter part of Karma. Karma brings joy as much as sorrow. Suppose you have done someone, or many someones, great injury. We all have, blindly, intolerantly, unthinkingly, at times. Even in this incarnation, who of us can say we haven't brought sorrow to somebody whether we wanted to or not? Does that mean we have to come back in sorrow? That is ridiculous. Balancing the scales can be done in other ways. If it were not so, life would be a real hell, and one might almost say eternal hell with no hope of relief. What we can do is develop an emanation that is so full of riches, of gratitude, of love, that anything we do is a service to life. If we feel rich in the service of taking care of our husbands or our wives and children, we bring a new element into our Karma. We are opening up new opportunities for expanded growth. This is true, because as consciousness expands, every part of our nature expands in all ways. Our emotional intensity, our love natures, our thinking capacities, our serving abilities — all are intensified.

Opportunities always arise if we have this attitude. However, if we feel that what we are doing is beneath us, we are failing ourselves and God and life, because we are not trusting the One Self as it is growing It's instrument - our personalities. We are not being grateful for the amazing miracle of awareness and consciousness and growth. We change our Karma absolutely into something more beautiful and joyous and rich when we decide to feel rich about the now. This is the way you change adverse Karma as well as develop new Karma. Everything we do now is making tomorrow. Everything we feel now is making tomorrow. Everything we think now is making tomorrow. No matter how much sorrow you have brought, no matter how evil you have been, if you work on this element in your nature and decide to be rich and grateful, to see the beauties of the now in all its ways, then you begin balancing the scales after another fashion. You make up for what evils you have done by being given an opportunity to bring positive good to a greater number. See the point? If not in this incarnation, then in the next.

You come in with the ability and capacity and the environmental conditions to serve and bring hope and love and service to a larger area of people. This balances the forces. You don't have to go through agony and hell and sorrow to pay off your Karma. Learn to live in the now and be grateful for what you are. You will be 'burning the seeds of Karma' in the only way it really can be done. At the same time you will be much nicer to be around and your family and friends will receive the impact of you. They, too, will become nicer than they were. As we live in this attitude, we become ever more powerful instruments for making others more beautiful.

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We become equilibrated and centered in the joy of living and giving. This is the real justice of the universe and the real Karma.

Let's forget the nonsense about the sorrows of yesterday. Let's throw away the fears that build unhappiness. We owe it to ourselves, to God and to life to stop being unhappy and to stop promoting unhappiness. There is too much sorrow in the world now. We are not going to lift our neighbor with sorrow. To lift a heart that is weeping and in despair we have to be able to bring that heart a touch of joy and hope and love.

TECHNIQUE

Place before you Keys No. 11, 3, 0, 21 and 1, in that order. As before, look at Key No. 11 first and image yourself permeated with Green and intone the note F-sharp. Review the positive attributes of the Libran nature — creative ability, sense of justice, balance, appreciation of beauty, etc. — and make a definite decision to develop these attributes in your own personality. As before, continue by meditating on the planetary aspects involved in the fashion outlined in earlier lessons. This Tableau is a most important one to help you establish the equilibrium of personality so necessary for the attainment of higher levels of awareness.

AFFIRMATION

All the forces of the universe flow through me and I align myself with them in perfect obedience. Thus the balance of forces is maintained within my personality, and I reap the rewards of emotional, mental and physical stability. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-one

SCORPIO (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Scorpio and Death represent the individuality types of persons born between October 22 and November 20. Scorpio is a fixed, watery sign. In the symbolism of the 10th and 21st Tarot Keys, it is represented by the eagle, which typifies spiritual vision and aspiration. This symbolism of the eagle has always been associated with the other two symbols of the sign Scorpio, which are the serpent and the scorpion.

The serpent in the Hebrew alphabet is the letter Teth, to which the fiery fixed sign, Leo is attributed. In Tarot this serpent power is represented by Strength. In connection with Key 8 that power is indicated as the fiery solar energy which animates all things. It is the power which Egyptian symbolism always associates with the serpent-force. One of the commonest Egyptian symbols is a winged sun-disc with a serpent on either side. The serpent is a phallic symbol, as everybody knows, and represents the activities that transmit life from generation to generation.

The nerve force required for those reproductive functions, which in astrology are placed under the rulership of the sign Scorpio, is stored in the Mars center. It is this Mars force working through Scorpio which is transformed into the spiritual sight, and the eagle is the symbol of this transformation. Thus we read in the Rosicrucian Confessio Fraternitatis:

"A thousand times the unworthy may clamor, a thousand times present themselves, yet God hath commanded our ears that they should hear none of them, and hath so compassed about with His clouds, that unto us, His servants, no violence can be done; wherefore now no longer are we beheld by human eyes, unless they have received strength borrowed from the eagle."

The phrase underlined is sufficient indication that the writers of the original Rosicrucian documents knew about the serpent power, and understood that the finer vision is the result of the direction of energy "borrowed" from the Mars center which controls the functions assigned to Scorpio. We commend the whole quotation to all readers of these pages who may come upon this or that claim that some person is the Head or Chief of the "true Rosicrucian Order."

The Scorpio temperament is essentially Martian. It is described in the chart by the key words: mystical, magnetic, resourceful. It may be that 'magical' should be substituted for 'mystical' because the Scorpio temperament is exceptionally well adapted to the practice of genuine magic. That practice may be either 'black' or 'white', according to the development of the practitioner; for it needs always to be understood that the difference between 'black' and 'white' magic is not in the forces employed, nor, to any great extent, in the methods of the magician. Eliphas Levi, to be sure, has indulged in some mystifications on this point, so that many of his readers are led to believe that black magic is nothing but a fantastically organized system of superstitions and ridiculous ceremonials. Doubtless he

had his reasons for what he wrote to this effect, but I find it impossible to believe that he did not know perfectly well that it is in the uses to which magic is put, and in the aims which animate the magician, that we must look for the distinction between 'white' and 'black'. Black magic is the essence of folly, to be sure. But the folly does not consist in the formulas and the methods. Neither are there any truly 'black' forces as opposed to 'white' ones. The folly is in the supposition of the magician that he can work for selfish ends, that he can use magic to get an unfair advantage, that he can succeed by subtly bringing about the failure of other people. This folly is represented in the Tarot by the Tower in Key 16. It is the great error of separateness.

To it, undeveloped Scorpio people are prone. They are always "standing up for their rights", always ready to fight. Their tongues are bitterly sarcastic when they are angry, and in a sentence they can blast a friendship of years' standing.

But the developed Scorpio person is one of the finest human types. He makes an excellent practical occultist because he instinctively understands the necessity of controlling his tongue. He never runs around telling people about his marvelous 'demonstrations'. He can be trusted with secrets, and so life puts many in his possession.

He has executive ability and constructive power. He is a tireless worker, and this characteristic alone is enough to enable him to make fine progress in occultism, which demands persistence of all who would really attain its goal. And he has a strong, vivid imagination, which enables him to foresee consequences with an accuracy that amounts almost to prophetic vision. It is this power of imaginative forecasting which is indicated by the attribution of Imaginative Intelligence to the letter Nun, which represents Scorpio in the Hebrew alphabet. It is the power upon which all practical magic depends, because the mental work whereby the practical occultist exerts a transforming influence on himself and his environment has the formation of vivid images as its basis. It is through the generation of these images that the "renewing of the mind" mentioned in earlier lessons may be achieved.

Magnetic the Scorpio native certainly is, and that magnetism is a very subtle force. Its physical basis is undoubtedly closely related to the reproductive centers, and on this account natives of Scorpio have to learn self-control, or they find themselves in all sorts of difficult situations. But when they learn how to direct this magnetic force they can use it in numberless ways for the good of others. It makes them persuasive in argument, which they love. It attracts friends of both sexes. It is a force, too, which can be directed for healing by laying on of hands, and people who are natives of Scorpio, or who have this sign strong in their horoscopes, often have marked success in the practice of this kind of therapy.

The resourcefulness of the Scorpio temperament is closely related to the inner sense of power which the Mars force confers upon them. It is also directly connected with their powers of vivid imagery. Get a developed Scorpio person into a difficult situation, and he will find a way out, because he is not bound by tradition or convention, and can imagine a totally new situation. This ability is also to some degree related to the fact that Uranus,

symbolized in Tarot by The Fool, has its highest expression in this sign. Scorpio people instinctively understand the new horizons and boundless possibilities typified by Key 0, and they are ready to depend upon the unseen forces and laws behind this world of forms and appearances.

The most prominent feature of the typical native of Scorpio is a prominent nose, usually of Semitic cast. It often bears a strong resemblance to the bill of an eagle. Heavy, even bushy, eyebrows are another marked feature. The eyes are sharp and penetrating, and the jaw is heavy and has that set appearance which we associate with determination. Usually the hair is dark and so is the complexion. Commonly the teeth, which are large, decay early, even though they are well cared for. The body is short and stocky, but not so rounded as that of the short Taurus type. The neck is also usually short, but lacks the heaviness of the Taurus neck.

These characteristics, however, are found only in typical natives of Scorpio, usually those born near six o'clock in the morning. We give them so that you may practice picking out the types. But you must remember that while nearly every person who has these characteristics strongly marked is a native of Scorpio, the reverse is not true. For there are plenty of tall, thin, blonde natives of the same sign, whose appearance is modified by other influences.

Scorpio rules the reproductive organs, the bladder, the urethra, the rectum, the descending colon, the prostate gland, and the nose. Its color, green-blue, and the note G-natural, are indicated for diseases of this area, including: nasal polypi, adenoids, cold in the head, nasal catarrh, diseases of the womb and ovaries, various venereal diseases, stricture, enlargement of the prostate gland, painful and irregular menstruation, leucorrhea, rupture, renal stones and gravel.

The Scorpio Sub-types

Persons born between October 22 and October 31 are under the special influence of Mars. They are very positive in their opinions, lovers of argument, forceful in the expression of their ideas, and energetic in the execution of their plans. Undeveloped types have a streak of cruelty, and are likely to ride rough-shod over opponents to their plans.

Persons born between November 1 and November 10 are under the combined rulership of Neptune and Jupiter. Neptune gives them insight. Jupiter gives them suavity and friendliness. They are sagacious and calculating. They make excellent analyses of every situation which presents itself. They are especially gifted with a penetrative insight into the true conditions in almost any state of affairs.

Persons born between November 11 and November 20 are under the special rulership of the Moon. They are the most adaptable of the Scorpio natives. But though they change their methods, if need be, they seldom alter their objectives. In the face of danger or disaster they keep their heads. They are masters of the art of suggestion, as a rule. They make up their minds quickly, and act as soon as they have come to a decision, often surprising other people by their abruptness. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-two

SCORPIO (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Tarot Key No. 13, Death, assigned to Scorpio, is first in our Tableau for this lesson. Mars, ruler of Scorpio, symbolized by Key 16 is next. Key 20, Pluto, co-ruler of Scorpio, is placed third. Key 12, Neptune and Key 10, Jupiter, rulers of Pisces, preside over the second decanate. Key 2, the Moon, assigned to Cancer, is sub-ruler of the third decanate. Uranus, Key 0, exalted in Scorpio, completes our Scorpio Tableau. This is one of our longest Tableaus, quite appropriate for the complex Scorpio nature.

Scorpio rules the generative organs of man. As you will recall, Mars is also the ruler of Aries, which is said to be the day house of Mars. Scorpio is called the night house of Mars. Night intimates secrets. . . the unknown, the mysterious. Certainly this is true of the reproductive function as a whole. So much misunderstanding has arisen in occult groups because they have misinterpreted the teachings and have thought that to follow the spiritual path they must extinguish the generative drive. What they are really doing is suppressing the creative power of God through their personalities. They become dull-eyed, uninteresting and unable to express any real love. You do not feel power or love emanating from them because the generative power generates love power. The reproductive power is the love power. Experience and history have taught us that celibacy, as practiced in many religions, does not increase spiritual power or personal magnetism. Those religions which adhere to this practice have taken a basic truth about the conservation and control of energy and misinterpreted its meaning.

Just as mistaken are those who consider this energy to be merely a carnal drive for the release of certain bodily tensions. This attitude degrades and wastes our vital energies. Remember, in Gematria, unity and love have the same numeration - 13. When love is the motive in our drive for unity, then we are working with something pure and beautiful. When we are motivated by merely physical drives, the urge to unity results in wasted energy, which in turn leads to damaging guilts. This type of expression can also destroy the very power that could take us to the heights of illumination.

The Scorpionian personality basically has an intense nature that expresses much magnetic appeal for others. Wherever you encounter profound magnetic sex appeal in a personality, the chart will usually show strong placings in Scorpio or in the 8th house. The important thing to remember about this vital Scorpionian magnetism, which we can all manifest, is that it is this attractive principle which can and will, when properly used, draw to us love, beauty, attainment and the ability to master the baser elements of our nature. When we speak of experiencing Oneness with God, or experiencing unity with all of life, we must remember that it is the Scorpionian reproductive magnetic energy which is the power within us that will lead us to this attainment.

Scorpio natives usually have a rather bewildering array of characteristics. Most people find it difficult to understand their complex personalities.

This is interesting because, as you well know, most people do not understand their own reproductive drives. Scorpions are more apt to understand these drives than most. They are said to be the most intense types in the whole zodiac. This is because, either consciously or subconsciously, Scorpions are aware of and utilize these basic energies more fully than others. Another Scorpion trait is secretiveness. Natives are well able to keep secrets. If you have a Scorpion as a friend, your secrets are safer with him than with other types. Among the less admirable Scorpion traits is an inclination to sarcasm. Their basic intensity of nature can express negatively in cutting observations about the shortcomings of others. All Scorpions have an ability to see through the surface qualities of others into the depth of their natures. This intensity, inherent in the Scorpio nature, which in highly developed types expresses as deep compassion and concern for others, can, conversely, in undeveloped types, express in extreme cruelty, especially mental cruelty. They can speak with bitingly sarcastic tongues that can be devastating to sensitive souls. Most of us would rather be slapped than be subjected to this kind of cruelty. Sarcasm is a powerful weapon that should never be used. Usually the motive behind using it is a desire to look smart and clever at someone else's expense. Those of you who have a talent for sarcasm should watch yourselves and see to it that you do not tear another human being apart with it, no matter how much you feel that they deserve it.

Many people seem to be a bit afraid of close relationships with Scorpions because of their intense personalities. Scorpions are able to express their emotions quite freely. There is such a depth of feeling in their natures that they have little trouble expressing themselves dramatically. So much intensity is not apt to be blocked by fears and lack of confidence. Nevertheless, Scorpions can be very fearful. However, their fearfulness does not express in the way that it does in the Capricorn nature. Scorpions' fearfulness is based more on caution, sometimes overdone, but based on an unusual ability to perceive possible consequences of any given set of circumstances. This in turn is based on their ability to grasp subtle differences in similar situations. Because of this ability, they are said to be well qualified as detectives or as research occultists.

The three highlights given for Scorpio in general are: mystical, magnetic and resourceful. Actually, all the water signs have a mystical quality, even if they profess to be atheists. The water signs are also said to be the most inclined to psychism. However, this psychic quality expresses differently in each of the three water signs. Recognized psychic mediums have been found to have either the sun, moon or ascendant in Cancer or Pisces. It has also been found that many of the greatest mystics have these strong placings in Cancer and Pisces. Mystics are usually the higher evolved ones. They experience these subtle levels of the universe from a higher vantage point than do the ordinary psychic mediums. On the whole, the psychic qualities of the Scorpion native are more controlled, and therefore they have a distinct capacity to develop occult power. The reason for this is that along with this controlled psychic power they have the intense magnetic energies that give tremendous impetus and power to the psychic qualities.

Scorpions are also said to be skeptical and suspicious enough not to get readily lost in psychic illusions. They are not apt to get taken in by exaggerated claims made by various pseudo-psychic and occult groups or individuals. We should all be on guard against over-zealous claims among

occult adherents and leaders. It is not that we disclaim the validity of realms and worlds and states of consciousness other than are here on the physical plane. It is just that the careful occultist realizes that on the psychic levels people can be subject to their own self-delusions and illusions, as well as their personal needs for self-glorification. We must all be on guard against falling into the trap of gullibility. Study, meditation and patience are prime requisites for attaining to direct perception of higher states of consciousness. Scorpions are not apt to fall for occult nonsense because of their inherent skepticism. Getting enchanted with psychic phenomena can lead to a lot of wasted time at best. We must all learn to use our Scorpion nature to stay reasonably skeptical.

Another basic Scorpion quality is one-pointedness. They can become so concentrated and single-minded about some project that they will forget to eat and sleep at times. Their capacity to keep going is fantastic. This is very good if it is under control. Intensity is a gift that gives us the power to move mountains.

The first decanate Scorpions, October 22 to October 31, are the Mars-Pluto type. They are said to be positive, forceful and energetic. This Scorpio sub-type has a special capacity for expressing these qualities at the proper time and if called for. These attributes reflect the strong Mars influence in the first decanate. There is usually a certain Libran quality in the nature of very early Scorpions because of a wash-over from the previous sign. Incidentally, this is true of all of the signs in the early degrees. This often confuses those who are not familiar with this washover of qualities. Early Scorpions are likely to display a sense of justice that is more typical of Librans. We must always be careful not to be too precise with basic sign characteristics. There are so many elements involved in reading a chart that one has to develop intuitive ability in order to interpret all the various ramifications. There are several hundred different items in a chart which we must learn to register almost all at once in order to tune into the individual for whom the chart is a map. First decanate Scorpions are especially favored with the ability to concentrate, gather facts quickly and interpret them accurately. Work with the Scorpio Tableau will help all of us develop this ability.

Second decanate Scorpions are said to be sagacious, analytical and penetrating. These qualities usually result in an amazing intuitive ability and a marked tendency for mystical experiences. This is true of all the water signs, but it is more apt to express in the second decanate Scorpion after just a short period of meditation and study. They have to do less work to experience mystical levels of awareness because their natures give them a natural inclination toward profound meditation.

Third decanate Scorpions have the highlights: cool, subtle and abrupt. They have the Moon as sub-ruler and this gives them a tendency to such sensitivity to the thoughts and feelings of others that they will often seem quite melancholy. Of all Scorpions they are most inclined toward suspicion of others because of this extra sensitivity. This accounts for a certain coolness. It is a protectiveness that they seem to surround themselves with. They are not cool inside. Inside a fire rages, but they put on a mask of coolness or abruptness in order to safeguard themselves, to wall themselves away from the bewildering impacts that this extra psychic concentration makes them so susceptible to.

Esoterically, Key 13, Death, symbolizes our creative energy and how we may best utilize it for spiritual attainment. Your age does not matter. We all have this driving energy which is usually expressed in sex functions. You do not really lose this drive as you advance in years. When the proper mental, emotional and spiritual attitude is developed you can awaken these energies more strongly than ever for spiritual attainment. What do we mean by awakening this force for spiritual attainment? What we mean first of all is becoming aware of surging waves of love. Most people are unaware of the subtle energies involved in the reproductive drive to mating because they have been conditioned to react and respond to these energies on purely physical levels. We, as aspirants, can awaken within us an awareness of these subtle levels of power and thus attract to ourselves more love because we will be emanating more love.

In the commentary from the BOOK OF TOKENS on the letter Nun, the Master R emphasizes the need to completely change our basic viewpoint in relation to sex. This is the first essential. Until this is done we are shackled in our aspirations. When he speaks of changing our entire conception of sex he means exactly this. We must stop seeing sex as merely a relationship existing between a man and a woman for the purpose of relieving bodily tensions and congestions. Becoming completely uninhibited is not the answer. Freud discovered a great truth about the dangers of inhibiting sex desire, but misinterpretations have clouded the truth almost out of sight. We went through a period in our history when uninhibited sex expression was considered the answer to practically every personality problem. The cry was "Let's be natural". Animals are natural, but we are not animals. Animals mate at specific periods for one specific purpose — to reproduce their kind. Such is not the case with man. All these extremists, both the prudes and the naturalists, are tinged with shame and error. We need to understand that sex expression between mates is not utilizing its highest potential when it is seeking mere sense pleasures, the temporary ecstasies of orgasm. Misunderstood, the drive to unity becomes merely an unchecked, outpouring of the reproductive urge. Granted this is necessary and important, or our planet would become depleted of human beings. However, man would not have been given such a strong sex urge were it meant to be used only for the begetting of the species. What God gives us has a purpose and a reason. Man and woman must evolve beyond mere sex expression between bodies. Using this drive for other than relief of bodily tensions is one of the secrets of the Great Work. It does not mean suppressing the regenerative power and becoming a dried-up, unsexed creature. We are giving you the esoteric elements more openly than we ever have before. In Tarot Key 13, notice that the grim reaper is harvesting male and female heads. They stand for understanding and wisdom. The hands being harvested are symbols of the creative energies. In Key 16, The Tower, assigned to Mars, ruler of Scorpio, figures are being thrown from the Tower of Babel. In relation to Key 13, this is symbolizing a change in the entire attitude and concept of sex.

Actually God so made us that we have a surplus of creative energy. Even when we are giving ourselves little death after little death, we still have enough left over with which to grow and aspire. But to prepare for illumination, we must learn how to tremendously increase the flow of this energy. We must learn to use as fully as possible every gift and treasure that God has given us. To work toward adeptship we must first change

certain of our attitudes and entirely reverse our idea of what union of the sexes is for. Yes, it is for the reproduction of the species, but that is only one of its necessary expressions. We have to reverse our attitudes first and foremost. This takes time. Then we can begin to expand the area of the effect and vivification of our creative energy, becoming aware of the subtle subconscious aspects involved in the interchanges between the sexes. Actually this interchange occurs between all of us to some degree. It is just that with a mate we can do more. Transmuting our attitudes towards sex and dedicating our energies to God does not mean giving up our mate or sexual union.

We must transmute our attitudes whether we live alone or with a mate. It is still the same energy. This transmutation should be a change to reverence toward the dynamic power that creates on all planes and in all ways. You must begin to revere this drive and utilize it as a sacrament to God. This in turn will tremendously expand and intensify your love nature. It is a matter of conservation of energy so that the energy may be utilized for awakening the subtle levels that ultimately lead to union with God.

In all our B.O.T.A. training, especially in the planetary center practices in Color and Sound, you advanced students have probably already experienced a tremendous increase in this energy. This is when you have to be the most careful. You must learn to direct the energy up to the heart and develop self-meditative practices. Our Tableau meditations are well suited to this. We lift the wild energy up to the heart center. There this same power will expand your love nature and start magnetizing your whole body. It isn't that those who express their sex drives purely on the physical level are wrong. But we, as aspirants, must train this energy to come from the heart. Then something is added to the whole emotional response in any love relationship. For men it is more difficult than for women because men are more compulsive in their drives — which is all right. Every man needs a knowledgeable woman to turn his sex drives to love expressions. It is essential to think of sex as an expression of infinite love. Look to your husband or wife as the one with whom a sacramental Oneness is being expressed symbolically.

In other words, if you would become a channel for God's most intensive energies, if you would become one who has experienced the unity of life, you must change your concept of sex from that which is held by ordinary man. See it as the expression of God's love between creature and creature instead of as a function for the release of bodily tensions. When you manage to develop these magnetic energies more fully in the heart center, then during union with your beloved you will find something different will begin to happen. There are certain ways and means that this is accomplished which we cannot give out at this time. Nevertheless, we have given you a great deal so that you can get started. You must first understand the principle. With men, especially, there is a fear of losing something that they hold dear. There are raptures and ecstasies in the embrace of the beloved that so far surpass the kind of rapture that the physical plane orgasm holds that in a way you might call it another order of experience. Yet the same relationship is involved. This is what is meant by raising the Kundalini energy, by the taming of the lion, etc. The same drive energizes and vivifies the heart center preparing you to experience yourselves as one who is a Child of God.

This same energy raised to the head centers sharpens and vivifies the mind so that you become open to direct perception of the cosmic principles of the universe. It is enhanced and intensified when two mates love each other enough to desire these experiences together. When anyone is ready they are guided and led to further instructions in the development of these magnetic powers for the service of God. Only those who are able and ready to utilize this tremendous power, with control and dedication, can get such instructions. No one can get it any other way. We have given you the first vital steps. Stop thinking about sex as merely a pleasurable release of tensions on the physical plane. Remember, however, that those who do are not evil. They are just young. Aspirants must change this attitude and start thinking of sex as a holy, symbolic manifestation of unity and Oneness with God, as expressed between mates. Those of you who do not have mates must still work on transmuting your attitudes. Then if you really want a mate you will find one who will help you fulfill your spiritual goals. We have explained the first steps and we will give more as you are ready for it and able to receive it.

TECHNIQUE

Place before you in order Keys No. 13, 16, 20, 12, 10, 2 and 0. Image yourself and your aura as permeated with the blue-green assigned to Scorpio. Bring up to mind the positive qualities connected with this zodiacal type which are to become a part of your nature when needed. Go through the Keys assigned to the planetary rulers as outlined in earlier lessons. This Tableau is particularly useful in helping you transmute your creative drives and in helping you develop the magnetic power so necessary in occult work.

AFFIRMATION

I am a channel for the creative power of God. Through me these energies are utilized for the highest service to the One. Love for all of life is my only motive for developing an ever greater capacity for expressing and controlling the magnetic drive of nature. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-three

SAGITTARIUS (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Persons born between November 21 and December 20 have Sagittarius and Temperance for their individuality type. Sagittarius, as a fire sign, belongs to the same triplicity as Aries and Leo. Thus the basic quality of the type is that represented by the 20th Key in Tarot, and by Perpetual Intelligence among the modes of consciousness. In Aries this quality manifests as the Constituting Intelligence, framing reasonable definitions of the meaning of existence, and as the dominant power which is so evidently suggested by the Emperor. In Leo, the same Perpetual Intelligence is what is specialized as Intelligence of the Secret of all Spiritual Activities. In Sagittarius it is the Tentative Intelligence, or testing mode of consciousness, represented by the fiery angel wearing the Great Name, I H V H. All these fiery signs have behind them the operation of the power which works perpetually through living organisms to effect the release of consciousness from the limitations of three-dimensional existence, with its bondage to the appearances of Time and Space.

Verification is the key word associated with Sagittarius in the Tarot Tableau. It is derived from the ascription of Tentative Intelligence to the letter Samekh. As the Analysis says: "It is the kind of consciousness which puts theory to the test of practical application, which does laboratory work. All that work consists in the examination and modification of various modes of vibration."

This laboratory work, being associated with the idea of support or foundation implied by the meaning of the letter-name "Samekh" (tent-peg), was well understood by the Inner School to be absolutely indispensable. As all the ideas connected with Libra and Justice revolve around the thought that we 'learn by doing', so all the ideas connected with Sagittarius and Temperance are associated with the thought that our doing must be a continual adaptation of the various states of vibration whose action and reaction constitutes our personal existence.

Thus, on the breast of the angel there is the white square enclosing the red triangle, a symbolic expression of the words of the Emerald Tablet: "Thou shalt separate the earth (square) from the fire (triangle), the subtle from the gross, suavely, and with great ingenuity." This continual exercise in separating or distinguishing between outward appearance and inward motive-power, external form and internal conscious energy, leads at last to the attainment of that command over the forces of nature which is represented by the radiant crown at the end of the path behind the angel in the 14th Key. Furthermore, as this work of testing and verification goes on, it brings us ultimately to the clear perception that all our personal activities are merely the particular expressions, in terms of relative existence, of the interplay of cosmic forces, and of the operation of universal laws.

This is the esoteric meaning of the astrological teaching that Jupiter rules Sagittarius. In Tarot, Jupiter is the Wheel of Fortune, symbol of the

rotation of cosmic cycles, the wheels within wheels of simultaneous involution and evolution. Review what is written in our earlier lessons about Jupiter and the solar plexus.

Our aspirations are really intuitions of the necessary consequences of the world-process whose history is stored in our solar plexus. Even our baser desires are rooted in the same intuitive knowledge. The only difference between a low desire and a high aspiration is in the purity with which the impulse is expressed in our personal consciousness. A 'low' desire is an imperfectly realized aspiration. It is a mistaken interpretation of the cosmic urge for higher things which we all feel welling up within us. The finer the personal vehicles become, the purer will be the expression of desire.

Eastern teaching rightly connects desire with anger. For it is the frustration of desire that arouses wrath. Here is one key to the attribution of 'Wrath' to this sign, Key and Hebrew letter. But note that the Hebrew word for 'wrath', RVGZ וָרָחַק, is numerally equivalent to RAIH רָאִי, sight, and to ARIH אַרְיֵה, a lion. RAIH is related to Aries and the Emperor. ARIH is the Hebrew name of Leo, and is thus connected with Strength. And all of these words have the same numeration as GBVRH גְּבוּרָה, Geburah (216) which means 'strength' and also 'courage'. The root-meaning of RVGZ, moreover, is 'vibration' and the best translation is 'zeal'.

Now it is a physical fact that both zeal and courage are not only closely related to the function of the solar plexus, but are also expressed in the muscular activity of that part of the body which corresponds to Sagittarius. Confidence and courage are expressed through an erect, firm standing posture, made possible by firmness and strength of the great muscles of the thighs. Merely to flex these muscles, as one stands upright, is to give the body a poise which expresses confidence. These are the muscles, too, which enable archer, huntsman or golf-player to take aim. Thus they are physiologically associated with activities requiring definite purpose and concentration. On this account the mere act of flexing these muscles is itself a suggestion, because through thousands of repetitions the subconscious mind has learned to associate that particular muscular activity with moods of concentration and determination.

It will hardly escape your notice that these thigh-muscles provide the motive power in walking. Thus their action is really what wears paths. Consequently the path in the 14th Key has literally been made by the muscular action of the thighs. It is therefore the symbol of the moods and mental states associated with those muscles. In a word, it is the path of trial, of testing, of experiment, which always requires persistence, which demands definiteness of aim, which no man may tread unless he be fired by the zeal of aspiration.

With Jupiter as their ruler, natives of Sagittarius are usually genial, and their cheerful, hearty manner wins them many friends. They value the opinions of their contemporaries and are inclined to be conservative and even punctilious about small matters of etiquette and ceremony.

They abhor double-dealing and concealment, and are frank and open in their speech. Usually they are excellent conversationalists, and good at

narration. Sometimes they are just a bit inclined to hold the center of the stage, but whatever they have to tell is so interesting that others are glad to listen.

They are generous and charitable. Their sympathies are easily aroused, and they cannot bear to see anybody suffer. This makes them avoid disputes and quarrels whenever they can. Nevertheless, they will fight to the last ditch for a matter of principle.

The key-words: aspiring, frank philosophical, describe the best development of the Sagittarius type. The undeveloped natives of this sign are likely to be a trifle what the English call "horsey" — lovers of sports, hunting and the like. With them aspiration becomes ambition, and they are not very philosophical, though they usually have plenty of common sense. Nearly all natives of Sagittarius love dancing, and do it well. As a rule they are fond of horses and dogs, and inclined to outdoor life.

Sagittarians are generally tall. Their bones are heavy, and as they grow older they often develop a stoop. The face is long, with a rather long nose. Usually the eyes are dark, and the hair brown or dark chestnut color.

Sagittarius rules the hips and thighs, the femur, and the coccygeal and sacral vertebrae. It also governs the sciatic nerves. Its color is blue, and its note G-sharp. They may be used for locomotor ataxia, sciatica, rheumatism, hip diseases, and because Sagittarius has a reflex action in Gemini, for pulmonary troubles also.

The Sagittarius Sub-types

Persons born between November 21 and November 30 have Jupiter as their special ruler, in addition to its general rulership of the sign. Your chart calls them: jovial, determined, prophetic. This is correct, but it may be added that their prophetic gifts are the result of the ease with which they come in touch with the subconscious archives stored in the Jupiter center, or solar plexus. Because all manifestation is in cycles, and because they have subconscious memory of the essential significance of events long since passed, they appear to have foresight; but it is very different from the logical foresight of the Aries type.

Between December 1 and 10, the influence of Mars is mingled with that of Jupiter. This adds a touch of unconventionality to the temperament, and it is well described by the key-words: audacious, astute, adventurous. For although there is a daring and venturesome streak, due to the Mars influence, it is tempered by the conservatism of Jupiter, into astuteness.

Between December 11 and 20 the expansive influence of the Sun is mingled with that of Jupiter. This adds a desire to be well thought of and gives some ability for leadership. The key-words are happily chosen: formal, faithful, candid. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-four

SAGITTARIUS (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

The 14th Tarot Key, Temperance, is assigned to Sagittarius, and Jupiter, Key 10, its ruler, is next in our Tableau. The fire sign that follows Sagittarius is Aries, making Mars, Key 16, ruler of the second decanate. The third fire sign after Sagittarius is Leo; therefore, Key 19, the Sun, subrules the third decanate. There is no exaltation in Sagittarius, so this completes our Tableau. The reason there is no exaltation is because Sagittarius is correlated with the higher mind. The Holy Guardian Angel in Key 14 is performing the work of transmutation. There is nothing that can be exalted above this attainment. The very highest wisdom that we can attain to is continuous knowledge that whatever we think, feel, say or do is done through us by the Higher Self depicted by the Angel in Key 14.

The highlights for the basic Sagittarius nature are given as: aspiring, frank and philosophical. However, the way these will express through a personality depends on the level of development. As we have stated before, every sign is represented by different stages of evolvement from the very green apples on the Tree of Life, through the intermediate types, to the more highly developed representatives. There are also combinations where some parts of the nature will be well developed, while others are still very immature. Our progress in personality transmutation does not occur evenly. All this must be taken into account when reading a chart. A person can express both positive and negative aspects of a particular sign, depending not only on his level of development, but also upon the areas in which he is developed or still immature. The Sagittarius attributes of aspiring, frank and philosophical are the positive aspects. In an undeveloped personality these same aspects could express as: materialistically ambitious instead of aspiring; self-deceived and cruelly blunt instead of frank; stuffily over-conventional instead of philosophical. Although our aim is to develop the positive attributes of every sign, we need also to understand the negative expressions so as to learn to recognize them, both in ourselves and others.

Because of the expansiveness that the Jupiter rulership gives, Sagittarians have the tendency, if not disciplined, to go off into very impractical areas of thinking and feeling. They sense the vastness of the cosmos and can have difficulty in concentrating down on necessary details of living. Sagittarians love vastness, change, journeys, freedom, etc. They are sometimes accused of fickleness in relationships because of this love of freedom and change. Actually this is said to be a tendency of all the mutable signs, which include Sagittarius, Pisces, Gemini and Virgo. This tendency of the mutable signs is not so much fickleness as an ease in adaptability that is common to them. They readily adapt to new conditions and to situations that cannot be helped. You can be sure that people who do not adapt easily to change will accuse adaptable ones of fickleness.

This affinity for expansiveness also gives the Sagittarian a love of outdoor activities, sports and traveling. Male Sagittarians seem to want to prove to themselves how strong, capable and vital they are. An undeve-

loped type will express this need in hunting animals, but the more highly evolved one will transfer this love to hunting for ideas and knowledge. However, if you know someone who likes to hunt, it doesn't necessarily mean that he is unevolved. It could be that in one area of his personality he is still expressing a need to prove to himself that he is sure he could drag home the bull to the cave and thus take care of his family. He might have very highly evolved qualities in other areas of his nature. Don't make the mistake of condemning. Sagittarians, on the other hand, usually have a sort of protective feeling towards all creatures, when not on the hunt.

Another Sagittarian attribute is a marked inclination for prophesy. Subconsciously they seem to have an awareness of the cyclic activities of the cosmos, the wheels within wheels. Jupiter, ruler of Sagittarius, is the inner holy planet connected with the solar plexus. This is the center where the entire history of evolution is registered. It is often called the abdominal brain. Sagittarians basically have an awareness of this cyclic activity as a subconscious undercurrent of knowledge. This is what gives them a prophetic ability. Their kind of prophesy, however, isn't based on an ability to see into the future exactly. Unconsciously they have the records of past activities of evolution more available to them because of the Jupiter influence. This gives them an intuitive knowledge of the way things have gone in the past; thus they can more accurately forecast the next step. It is a sort of subconscious deductiveness that expresses in a subtle awareness of the way things have gone before. It is a marvelous quality and very vital for all of us to develop, whether we are Sagittarians or not. As we work with this Tableau we will be developing this ability.

The first decanate Sagittarius from November 21 to November 30 is given the highlights of: jovial, determined and prophetic. The prophetic element we spoke of comes in most strongly in this decanate because of the double Jupiterian rulership. The jovial attribute can express in conjunction with certain other aspects in the chart, conversely, as a tendency to deep depression. The Sagittarian is jovial mainly when in the company of many people. In social situations they are outgoing and good-natured. If you are married to a Sagittarian and he or she goes into a deep depression, invite others to your home and the Sagittarian will simply be impelled to joviality. Social contacts seem to work magic for them. The change is quite startling. This is true to a certain extent with all of the mutable signs — a marked ability to make a rapid change from one mood to another. Another Sagittarius trait is a dislike for any undertaking that is too repetitious. Sagittarians, together with the other fire signs, become quite irritable if they are forced to do one thing continuously. Such tasks will bore them into depression and then they will depress everybody around them. We all have to be able to do repetitive work when it is necessary and bless it and love it, but at the same time we should arrange our activities so that we have enough change to keep us out of a rut.

The Sagittarius is also said to be a tremendous talker, similar to the Gemini. He likes to gather attention to himself at socials with stories and anecdotes. His stories are usually very good too. However, undeveloped types can bore you outrageously with this need to hold the center of the stage. The attribute determined is interesting in connection with first decanate Sagittarius. Usually the mutable signs are not exactly prone to this quality. You expect it more from the fixed signs. This determination

in first decanate Sagittarius can be accounted for by a washover from Scorpio, a fixed sign. Of course if you happen to like the person, you will say he has wonderful tenacity, and if you do not like him you will call him 'stubborn'.

The second decanate Sagittarius, from December 1 to December 10, has Mars as sub-ruler and the highlights of: audacious, astute, adventurous. Those are very nice ways of saying some things which, in the undeveloped type, could be a problem. Audacious in the positive sense is symbolized by The Fool, Key 0, the fearless adventurer marching with evolution. This could be called spiritual audaciousness. However, if there are strong insecurities in the Sagittarius nature, this audaciousness can take a very serious turn. They can indulge in the most foolhardy adventures to prove that they have courage. They have this drive for adventure which can, in undeveloped types, express in actually criminal activities. On the developed side they often become law enforcement officers. They express this need for proving their courage by endangering themselves in situations that also protect society. They are thus expressing this need in a very positive sense. The Mars influence gives these Sagittarians a perceptiveness, while the Jupiterian influence bestows an expansive vision. They can thus both pierce into the heart of a matter and at the same time see the larger picture. Because of this dual influence, when second decanate Sagittarians become interested in occultism they have a wonderful capacity for vast insights and perceptions on the higher mind level. The sign itself rules the higher mind and the Mars influence gives them the ability to knock down the usual barriers.

The third decanate Sagittarius from December 11 to December 20 have the Sun as sub-ruler. The three highlights for them are: formal, faithful and candid. Formal is another word for conventional. All Sagittarians have a tendency toward conventionalism, even the audacious second decanate representative expressing this quality in certain respects. It is because they all have a deep respect for form and ceremonial. Sagittarius rules religion, philosophy and ceremonial, so they can, at lower levels of development, be agonizingly formal. They can adhere to the conventional ways of expression and tradition to the detriment of their own and others' progress. In highly developed third decanate Sagittarians this formality can express in terms of excellent research ability into religious and philosophical schools of thought. Third decanate Sagittarians are also called faithful. Ordinarily, mutable signs are said to be more prone to several marriages or many relationships than the other signs. Sagittarians do have a love of freedom and therefore tend to marry later than other signs. Those who are undeveloped in this area of their natures are apt to try to prove to themselves that they are free by being unfaithful. However, when you have the affection of a developed Sagittarian, especially the third decanate, you have a lasting faithfulness. If they accept you completely in any relationship, you will find they can express a lifelong loyalty, dependability and faithfulness. With the Sun as sub-ruler, there is also a candidness similar to the innocent open-mindedness of a child. The expansive vistas of Jupiter combined with the bright innocence of the Sun expresses in a most charming and delightful purity of heart.

The Sagittarian in general is always able to help you to broaden your philosophical horizons. They are one of the most valuable types to have as friends for this reason. They can stimulate insights and experiences

in you that can be most favorable to your spiritual growth.

Esoterically, Key No. 14 is related to the Higher Self. At one period in my training I spent four years with copies of this Key, Temperance, in every room in my house. I had one above my typing table, one in my kitchen, one in my bathroom and one in my bedroom. I wanted to get a continuous impact of the symbolism of this Key into the background of my consciousness. I wanted to continuously remind myself that God lives me; that all we think, say, feel and do is done through us by the Higher Self. During that period I developed an extraordinary serenity. No matter what was occurring I felt the magical wings of the Angel surrounding me. You can benefit from a similar practice.

Those who seek the fast way, those who want the shortcuts, unhappily end up with nothing. They want someone to give them the secret to instant spiritual illumination or success or happiness. Notice the Path in Key 14 that ends at the Crown. We must take every step on this Path of Return. We cannot experience cosmic consciousness just because we want to; we cannot develop serenity just because we want to. We have to yearn for it strongly enough to really work for it. That is why in elementary schools of metaphysics, which do a very wonderful work incidentally, there comes a time when the really sincere aspirant discovers that, though there is great truth in the teaching, there is also something missing. They become discontented and find that they are not able to demonstrate as readily as they were able to at first. When that time comes, when they get desperate enough, when they are ready to sit down and really work, then they are guided to something like B.O.T.A. There they find the real work, the step by step work that begins the true transmutation of personality.

Sagittarius is closely related to the ideas of aspiration because of its correlation with the higher mind. On the Tree of Life, Key 14 is called the Intelligence of Probation and Trial. It is also associated with wrath, or the Wrath of God. These ideas are very little understood. What is really meant by testing and trying? What is really meant by wrath? It has to do with desire. Aspiration is essentially desire; ambition is essentially desire; and desire, no matter upon what level it is expressing, is really a gift from God. There is nothing more stultifying than absence of any desire, despite what some of the Eastern teachings may seem to tell us. Without desire you lack impetus to accomplishment. Desire is a promise of fulfillment. True, we seek ways of fulfilling desires when we are unripe which are not very pretty, but that is because we have a warped reflection from the pool. We have not yet developed the spiritual capacity to interpret the true meaning of our desires and the ability to work toward their fulfillment in the richest, most rewarding ways. Nevertheless, however we may interpret a desire, it is right for us to go after its fulfillment; otherwise we are not testing and trying.

When engineers build a bridge they must know how many tons of weight it can withstand. They must test the steel used in its construction to ascertain at what point it will crack. It is the same with you and me. Our Holy Guardian Angel, our Higher Self, guides us through our desires in order to test the strength of the steel of the soul; in order to develop in us more awareness and understanding. The laboratory is the laboratory of consciousness, of emotion, of livingness. The testing and the trying goes on all of the time. You hear occultists say, "I realize this is a test,"

about some personal problem. Unfortunately we all make a lot of sounds with the mouth, signifying nothing really. What do we mean this is a test? We usually decide a certain experience is a test and that we have managed to pass the test if we keep our heads in the clouds. This is not altogether correct. The testing is actually more a matter of understanding what it is in us that drove us into this kind of need, this desire, this action or reaction. In other words, we must become aware of the forces at work within us. This is what is really involved in passing our tests. When we are unaware of the fact that it is a test, then we are really passing it. We must be very careful not to become the cheerful little Pollyannas who say, "All is good, all is well, all is God, all is love, all works out for the best." Although these are all very fine attitudes, what is behind them is usually a subtle endeavor to avoid understanding what has happened; a subtle way to avoid the need to analyze why we think and feel the way we do and why we attract the various people we do who give us so many problems and pains.

These are the things we have to watch for. We are creators with God and for God. We must understand the principles behind our problems. This strengthens our soul and expands our consciousness. This, indeed, is the purpose of living in its deepest sense. We must discover how and why we tend to repeat patterns of actions and patterns of relationships in our lives that hamper our spiritual progress. Some of us will seem to pick close relationships with those who will tyrannize us, or betray us, or disappoint us, over and over again. The significance of the testing and trying is to begin recognizing these ruts our consciousness can get into in terms of our own responses. We must begin watching carefully for the various elements in our own nature that seem to be attracting a repetition of negative experiences. Then, when we have recognized this tendency within us, we can invoke the Holy Guardian Angel to help us transmute these patterns. Notice how the Angel drops fire on the Eagle and water on the Lion. This is a most alchemical symbol of the Higher Self transmuting our personalities. We cannot do it alone. Re-read the ninth stage of the Great Work correlated with Sagittarius in our course THE GREAT WORK. The deepest transmutation must be turned over to the Angel. He is cooking us, he is consecrating us. It gets pretty hot at times, doesn't it?

Aspiration doesn't succeed without mirth either. Sanctimoniousness signifies a need to picture oneself as very holy and noble. He who is truly noble in spirit doesn't have to give that impression. Whenever anyone protests too strongly that he is honest or responsible or spiritual or faithful or loving, it usually indicates an underlying feeling that it is not so or there would not be an awareness of the need to protest it so strongly. I shocked a student once by saying, "I feel quite free to tell a lie." This person, who did aspire to deeper understanding of life, felt that he must continuously reiterate his honesty, integrity, morality and spirituality in order to show his sincerity. What was behind my remark? Actually, I innately feel the beauty of truth and the need for truth, but I also know that, relatively speaking, what is true for you may not be true for me. It takes two to tell the truth, one to tell it and know it and the other to hear it and accept it. There is a story of two knights that depicts this idea ironically. Two knights saluted each other in front of an inn. One of them said, "Isn't that a beautiful gold sign on the front of the Inn?" The other answered, "The sign is beautiful indeed, my dear sir, but it is silver." The first one came back with, "You are calling me a liar, sir. It is gold." Immediately

the lances were raised because both were incensed. Honor! Honor! To protect their honor they pierced each other with their lances and fell on opposite sides of the sign. As they died they saw that on one side the sign was gold and on the other side it was silver. So, what is truth?

There are realms of truth that cannot be told or believed by those who have not had certain experiences. You cannot tell the truth to deaf ears. They will neither believe nor understand. Truth for us is the ability to be honest with ourselves. "To thine own self be true . . . and thou canst not then be false to any man." What is it to be true to oneself? To be true to yourself you must train yourself to look within, deeply and courageously, in an effort to unveil your own motivations. To be true to yourself you must learn to differentiate between the personality, which is shown as that which the Holy Guardian Angel is working upon, and the forever I AM. The forever I AM is that which watches; that which is aware. We must learn to see from that level. Those who make a fetish of "I must tell the truth" are usually unable to be honest with themselves. We must learn to look upon our personality as a child or the pet of God. I had a most enlightening experience along this line in relation to my little dog Tzaddi. I was petting her and telling her how beautiful and wonderful she was. She didn't question this at all. She believed right along with me that she was about the most perfect thing that ever lived. I had been musing on the fact that though she could be quite naughty at times, these faults actually made her more charming to me. My beloved pet . . . I was feeling most indulgent toward her. Suddenly I had an experience. My consciousness switched right up to the level of the Holy Guardian Angel and I realized that my personality was just as much a pet to God as Tzaddi was to me. I also knew that this was true of all of us. After that I realized we should all look upon our personalities in this way. We have to learn to accept our personality imperfections as part of the growing process. If you cannot accept this part of yourself as an unfinished aspect of God, you will hinder the Holy Guardian Angel in his magical work of transmutation.

TECHNIQUE

Place Tarot Keys No. 14, 10, 16 and 19 before you. Permeate yourself with the blue associated with Sagittarius, and intone I A O to A-sharp. Continue the practice of going through the planetary centers correlated with the sign, intoning their notes and imaging the proper colors. This Tableau is most important. It will help lift you to the level of the Higher Self and give impetus to the deep transmutation of subconsciousness associated with the ninth stage of the Great Work.

AFFIRMATION

I am ready to "look upon every circumstance in my life as a particular dealing of God with my soul". The soul referred to is that which I share with all of life. I surrender myself utterly to guidance from the Holy Guardian Angel, the Higher Self, who is one with That Which Is. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-five

CAPRICORN (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Capricorn and the Devil represent the individuality type of persons born between December 21 and January 19. Capricorn is a cardinal, earthy sign. Types belonging to cardinal signs all have executive ability. Their most prominent characteristics are initiative and an urge toward self-expression. As an earthy sign, Capricorn gives its natives ability to express themselves constructively on the physical plane.

It is common to find natives of Capricorn somewhat disturbed by the fact that the Devil is their Tarot Key. This Tarot Devil is by no means so black as he is painted. He represents the way the Real Power behind the Capricorn temperament appears to most people. Ignorance of this Real Power behind appearances causes most people to miss the point of personal existence on the physical plane. It has been said that, "The Devil is God as He is misunderstood by the wicked". In earlier lessons you have found an identity of numeration between N Ch Sh, נחש, Nachash, The Tempter, and M Sh I Ch, משיח, Messiah, The Redeemer. Another hint to the real meaning of this Key is that Ayin is the symbol among Hebrew letters for the Renewing Intelligence.

The forces of Capricorn, intelligently directed, make great practical leaders, make for prominence in the affairs of this world, bring material success and gain. For thousands of years, envy masquerading as virtue (honestly enough, too, because it has been suppressed in the subconscious and therefore unrecognized) has perverted the doctrine of the wise. It has set up the false standard that to be 'spiritual' we must renounce all the good things of the physical plane. Hence thousands of sermons have been preached from the text, "Sell all thou hast and give to the poor", in which the text is expounded as if the words were a general admonition to all mankind, instead of being what their context clearly shows they were, a specific mental prescription given by Jesus to a young man who attached too much value to his earthly possessions.

Again, a Greek noun which means "lust" is erroneously translated as "love" in the sentence which should read, "The lust of money is a root of all kinds of evil". We do not agree with Nietzsche that the doctrines of Jesus are no more than a craven compensation for a sense of inferiority. Jesus knew what he was talking about. His words are wonderful expressions of truth about life. We must admit, nevertheless, that much teaching which calls itself "Christianity" and finds ready acceptance, merits Nietzsche's criticism. The same thing might be said of not a little that is written and said in the name of "Theosophy", "Metaphysics", "Divine Science", and so on.

Taking refuge from the realities and responsibilities of life in dreams of another, happier life beyond is not the method of the wise. To cry "sour grapes", however consoling it may be to people conscious of failure, is a sorry compensation for ignorance of the law that the One Force is "integrating, if it be turned into earth". Making oneself miserable here in order to be happy in the "sweet by 'n by" is a poor way to attain even that far-off objective.

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY: 45

Capricorn people are thoughtful, serious, and of a rather quiet nature. They are particular about small details, and are generally practical and economical. They are correctly described by the key-words: ambitious, diplomatic, conservative.

Their ambition rests on a basis of conscious ability. No native of Capricorn lacks self-esteem. Nevertheless, this good opinion of their own abilities is seldom exaggerated to the point of egotism. They measure their powers, and recognize the fact that those powers are enough to bring them to their desired goal. Thus they are not easily discouraged, however often they may meet with set-backs and disappointments. Persistent, patient, concentrated effort enables them to win out in the long run.

Their conservatism is marked, even to the point of extreme conventionality. They are cautious and frugal, and make the most of their means and opportunities. They are a little inclined to be suspicious of the motives of others. This quality combined with their natural talent for investigation sometimes makes them successful detectives. On a higher plane, the same qualities qualify them to become excellent investigators of the occult.

They do not change their opinions readily, and as they are often inclined to the materialistic interpretation of life, they make better occultists than mystics. That is to say, they are naturally inclined to take up the study of life from a strictly scientific point of view, but they will seldom be very emotional about the results of their investigations.

Among their failings, suspicion is the worst. They are often too quick in judging the motives of other people, and fail to realize that almost everybody acts more or less from mixed motives. Not at all lacking in self-interest themselves, they often resent it, or evidence of it, in others.

They are often somewhat restricted in their outlook on life. They do not feel so keenly as do natives of some other signs the presence of hidden forces and laws behind the veil of physical existence. This makes them prone to judge the intuitions and impressions of more psychic temperaments as being mere fantasy, so much moonshine. Sometimes they go further, and conclude that the marvels reported by psychics are a tissue of lies, made up to gain attention. Here they do themselves a worse injustice than they do those whom they doubt. Their attitude is based on a sense of inferiority. "Why don't I hear and see these things?", they ask themselves. Then they conclude, "There must be something wrong with me." This conclusion wounds their self-esteem. They cannot endure it. To avoid it, therefore, they begin to be suspicious of all accounts of superphysical perception.

Their error consists in the supposition that anything is wrong with a person so attuned that he is not aware of what is mistakenly called "the higher side of life". The Emerald Tablet corrects this error when it says, "That which is above is as that which is below". To be so conditioned that one perceives only the facts of physical existence is by no means to be on a 'lower plane'. There is nothing base or low about physical existence. Nothing whatever is wrong because one's perceptions are limited to that plane. Nothing is wrong with a bass viol because its range of pitch is different from that of a violin. The manifestations of the physical plane ex-

press the same miraculous power which psychics perceive at work in other fields. And the psychic pays his price. Just as certain tones cannot be produced on a violin which are produced freely from a bass viol, so the fact that the psychic is attuned to other octaves of cosmic vibration makes him less keenly aware of the physical octaves and their manifestations. Everybody knows how unfitted the psychic temperament is for success in the business world, or for the intelligent management of mundane affairs.

Moreover, One Law works on all planes, and may be discerned anywhere. This idea is continually repeated in Tarot symbolism. The Magician is growing flowers from the earth. The High Priestess sits on a stone seat. The Empress and the Emperor have thrones of stone. So does the Hierophant, and his throne is flanked by stone pillars. A stone mountain rises behind the Lovers, and the Chariot is made of stone.

The Capricorn person needs to understand this. He needs to grasp the reasonableness of the proposition that there must be many finer octaves of vibration beyond the physical. He may never have the slightest perception or sensation of these subtler octaves. He can discern the Law at work in the octaves he is aware of. At the same time, his reason will tell him that there may be people so constituted that they will sense vibrations that he does not perceive. These people are not his superiors. They are no better than he is. They are simply different. When he understands this, his inferiority complex will be dissolved, and with it his suspicions.

Typical natives of Capricorn are easily recognized, but for some reason there are not many of them, since the physical characteristics of this sign appear to be more frequently modified than those of any other sign. The body is short, slender and narrow-chested. The neck is thin. The hair is fine, dark and not abundant. The face is pale, and there is commonly some weakness of the eyes. The chin is pointed and sometimes turns upward to meet a pointed, down-turned nose. If they escape the many illnesses which afflict Capricorn children, they usually live to a great age.

The color is blue-violet, corresponding to the note A. It is the color of the area including the knees, the skin, and by reflex action, the stomach. The color and tone may be used for: arthritis of the knees; digestive disturbances; skin diseases such as eczema and erysipelas; wounds; nausea and vomiting; nervous indigestion; rheumatism; ulcerated stomach.

The Capricorn Sub-types

Nothing need be added to the descriptions of the sub-types given by the key-words in the chart. Careful consideration of the planetary rulerships of the three divisions of the sign will give you a good understanding of the three main variations of the Capricorn temperament. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-six

CAPRICORN (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Our Capricorn Tableau begins with the Devil, Key No. 15. Saturn, Key 21, rules Capricorn; Venus, Key 3, presides over the second decanate, and Mercury, Key 1, the third. Mars, Key 16, exalted in Capricorn, completes our Tableau.

Capricorn is the 10th sign of the zodiac, related to the natural 10th house of ambitions, careers, material success and fame. Capricorn is a cardinal sign of the earth triplicity. All cardinal signs have a tendency toward executive pursuits and this, combined with the manifesting earth correlation, gives Capricornians a distinct ability for material success. The Capricorn native is further endowed with a marked practicality and steadfastness that adds to this capacity for business and career success. This steadfastness, when found in well-developed types, gives them the ability to work toward spiritual pursuits painstakingly, though they often find it more difficult than other types to experience the subtle levels unless other planets are well placed in the more mystical or emotional water signs.

The Capricorn type has tremendous drive toward attaining whatever it is that he holds in his consciousness. Usually the earth and air signs do not display this strong drive to accomplishment, it being more evident in the fire signs as far as activity is concerned, and in water signs because of the emotional power. Here it is the cardinal quality that gives a need to be acting toward whatever is chosen as a goal.

The three basic highlights are given as: ambitious, diplomatic, and conservative. Diplomacy, of course, is a very constructive attribute when expressed positively as kindness and thoughtfulness of others' feelings. However, this diplomacy when expressed negatively is a tendency to conniving; to use other people to further personal gain. Actually, the goal toward which this attribute is used makes the difference. There are those who are so fixated that they are unwilling or unable to hear the truth. In order to accomplish anything with them we often have to be subtle and approach them indirectly. We ruin relationships and accomplish nothing with too much blunt frankness in such cases. While conniving on the negative side can be, and often is, a vicious selfish trait, when used to further constructive aims the same basic trait can be full of beneficence; a beneficence that is wise enough to know that some people cannot be approached too directly in any situation. As in most things, it is our aims and goals that make the difference.

Another Capricorn trait is fastidiousness in dress and manner. They can be even more finicky about cleanliness and order than the Virgo native. They share with Virgo an acute awareness for details. That is one reason they make excellent executives. This fastidiousness about details can be most uncomfortable for others who do not give such matters equal importance. Capricornians are equally concerned about proper adherence to customs. They have a basic conventionality that demands correctness and established decorum, not only from themselves, but also from

those who are close to them. This tendency is based on an overconcern for appearances which, as you know, is one of the meanings of Key No. 15. However, we need this type at times to help push some of us who are too carefree in this area into a realization that appearances are important as long as their importance is kept in proper perspective. Capricorn is the most earthy of the earth signs because of the Saturn rulership, so natives must be on guard against this overconcern for appearances. This is naturally not true of all Capricornians because, as we have said before, the placings of the other planets mitigate basic tendencies.

The first decanate, ruled by Saturn, is most susceptible to this over-focus on materiality. They have the added highlights of: cautious, judicious, and executive. Cautious they are, but when over-emphasized this caution manifests as a fearfulness and lack of confidence that is quite inhibiting to their personality expression. When kept in proper bounds it serves them well. Even crossing a street takes caution. They are not apt to indulge in foolhardy activities in an effort to prove what their idea of courage is, as some other types are prone to do. Yet when this caution becomes fearfulness, it inhibits spiritual development and can manifest as a deep insecurity in one's own worth and an extreme suspicion of others. They tend to look for the devil at every crossroad and thus their innate pessimism continues to manifest what they fear. In highly developed types this fearfulness can express as a judicious handling of material affairs that often brings them fame and fortune.

The second decanate is sub-ruled by Venus and is given the highlights of conventional, serious, and tactful. Second decanate Capricornians are the most likely to be idealistic because of the Venus influence. They also display a marked ability to serve in political areas. Venus bestows on them a charm that makes them personable public figures. All developed Capricornians have a desire to serve in some practical capacity that will bring out their executive abilities. They are also one of the most responsible types in the zodiac, displaying a loyalty and devotion to those they love or who are under their care that is most praiseworthy. In the underdeveloped or negatively oriented type this executive ability can manifest as a power drive. They can have such a determination to be on top in whatever field they are expressing that they seem to have few scruples about kicking aside anybody who gets in their way. If the negative Capricornian feels slighted or betrayed, he can also be very revengeful, having a driving need to get even. Capricornians basically, especially the second decanate, cannot bear to be patronized or criticized. If they think you have lessened their stature or their appearance before the world, they can be most vindictive. Well-developed Capricornians, on the other hand, have an unusual ability to see into their own ego drives, along with the perseverance necessary to surmount them constructively. Once the Capricornian has awakened to the need to transmute, once he really aspires, he can actually change faster than the so-called changeable signs because of the perseverance that Saturn bestows.

The third decanate Capricorn has the sub-rulership of Mercury. The highlights are: profound, aloof, and taciturn. Actually all Capricornians are rather aloof and reserved. This aloofness stems from the fearfulness that they are all so prone to. Because they usually have a definite motive behind whatever they do, they are always suspicious of the motives

of others. They are very careful planners with very definite aims, so they suspect others of like motivations. Therefore if they are conniving and ruthlessly determined to further their own ends, they suspect everybody else of like intentions. Something like this is behind the world of big business, which is ruled by the natural 10th house of Capricorn. In so much of our materialistically oriented society this suspicion is well founded. There are very few people who can be trusted if their own ambitions or pocketbooks are involved. But the developed Capricornian is one who can teach all of us a lesson in planning, orderliness and business details. They can accomplish so many things that most of us fail to accomplish.

Now we will take up the esoteric elements involved with the Capricorn area of our nature. People born under the sign of Capricorn become quite unhappy when they see that The Devil is assigned to them. Of course, Scorpians are upset at first, too, when they look at that skeleton. There is really no reason for either to be unhappy when they understand the deeper meanings of the Keys. First of all we must recognize that inasmuch as we have a specific area of the body assigned to each of the signs of the zodiac, we all have something of the characteristics of The Devil in our nature. The chained figures symbolize the dark element that is at the heart of the problem of every human being. What is this problem basically? As Paul Case noted in Lesson No. 45, one occult axiom says, "The Devil is God as He is misunderstood by the wicked". We have all been submitted to the exoteric religions which separate heaven and hell, God and the devil. We have to know, not just intellectually, but also emotionally and subconsciously, as a pattern of thought and actions, that there is but One Creator who creates all the apparent evil as well as the so-called good. Any evil, any darkness, that we disassociate from the ONE in our actions or speech or thoughts, shows that we have not yet evolved the capacity for proper response to the problem of evil. The mosquito would certainly think of the lizard as evil, because the lizard eats him. We think the lizard is fine for helping rid us of the mosquito. From whose point of view is a given action evil or benefic? This we must always remember. One of our problems is that we tend to put up fixed boundaries about ethics, morals and evils that do not necessarily apply. Limitation, as is apparent, is what Key No. 15 is symbolizing; limitation of expression, limitation of truth, limitation of experience. Indeed limitation is at the root of the frustrations which we consider adverse. Yet, limitation is that which grows us. What made you decide to enter occultism? Probably because you felt limited. You wanted out of your darkness, out of your ignorance, out of your tears, out of your sorrows. In the final analysis even that which man is pleased to call evil serves evolution.

Some of you feel lonely because you have no one to love, no one to love you; or you feel inhibited by a nagging wife, an indifferent husband; or bound by lack of funds, heavy responsibilities; or frustrated in opportunity for creative expression or spiritual contacts. Essentially you have wanted every frustration and injustice, every evil and deception that you have ever had. You have wanted them. Modern psychology has made some important discoveries along this line. They have recognized that subconsciously, on a level we are not usually aware of, we go out of our way to attract our miseries. It is unfortunately very often true, and we will try to show you how we do this.

Do you have a tendency to consider a sorrowful, pain-filled, frustrating existence as spiritual because it deepens the nature? As we all well know with the intellectual part of our natures, this attitude invites sorrow and misery. But, do we have hidden affinities to the plausibility of this idea? It is underneath; that is the problem. This is why, in the true occult teaching and training programs, you are given techniques to stir your subconsciousness; to stir all the underneath levels and bring them up into full awareness. This, indeed, is the whole reason for the Tarot, the whole reason for Qabalah. It is known by everyone who has had even an inkling of true realization that it is in these unconscious drives that all of our problems reside. We will admit that they come from many past incarnations. We have come through everything under the sun to arrive at where we are. We have come through battles with clubs and daggers and guns. All of us have done everything in order to survive. That is how we managed to evolve our self-consciousness — by forever being on the lookout for dangers that surrounded us. It is because at one stage of evolution we had to give all of our attention to danger that we managed to evolve this magnificent ability to be aware of details; to be aware of one thing in contrast to another thing. But many of these needs of yesterday remain in our subconscious storehouse. We tend to mistake the scaffolding of an earlier stage of development for the finished building. Many of the necessities of our yesterdays must now be eliminated in order to build the Living Temple as a channel for higher levels of consciousness. We must eliminate the old responses. That is why Mars is exalted in Capricorn. In order to see through appearances, in order to become transparent channels, we must knock out responses that were necessary at an earlier stage of development but are now a hindrance to further growth. We must wield the sword bravely. When we learn to look into our own hearts for the source of our troubles and problems, then the real transmutation begins.

The work we are now doing with these Tableaus is a most potent aid to awaken us to what we need to eliminate, what we need to transmute. The eye as an organ of vision is assigned to Key No. 15, through the letter Ayin. We must learn to see truly; to see through any problem or situation; to see through our own motivations. The Devil symbolizes the great deceiver. We are forever deceiving ourselves about ourselves. This is the basis upon which we pick all the unhappiness and frustration that we must then contend with.

Consider the marriage situation in our country. Statistics say that one out of every four marriages ends in divorce, and that a goodly percentage of the marriages that survive are most unhappy and are filled with tears, frustrations, hatreds and resentments. Yet many of these wedded people consider themselves altruistic because they put up with drunkards, gamblers, naggers, etc. If you have a complaint about your husband or wife, is it not possible that you drew this relationship unconsciously, like a magnet, in order to fulfill some neurosis, some immaturity, some ignorance, or to fulfill an unconscious need to suffer? It has been said that many modern marriages are based on the need to find just the right person who is going to make us miserable — only the wrong one will really do! This is closely associated with a problem that true aspirants are especially prone to. It is true that in a certain stage of an individual's development he must learn to be kind and understanding of others to compensate for an earlier stage of dog eat dog. But this necessity to develop compassion for

others becomes a positive detriment when carried too far, as it is with so many aspirants. We decide that we must express more love and compassion for everyone. Truly, love can never hurt a living soul, but our idea of expressing love is often erroneous. We feel that we must be forgiving and accepting, no matter what has been done to us. We become overbalanced on the side of mercy and thus aid, abet and strengthen the other person's evil and weak tendencies. This is one of the most important lessons for true aspirants to learn. We become accomplices against ourselves and against the other person's growth. How often have we allowed ourselves to be mistreated, stripped of dignity or despised as a weakling in the name of understanding? It is true that our training does give us more understanding of why people do what they do, and this understanding naturally makes us more prone to forgiveness.

We must now begin to see, however, that true understanding does not let others trample on anyone, including ourselves. This unbalanced mercy is actually one of the most serious hindrances on the Path; it is a subtle hindrance, a subtle weakness that disguises itself as beneficence. It is based on a false concept of spirituality. Those who tyrannize and exploit others for their own ends are emotional infants, and it is our job not to be tyrannized by them. We do not need to worry about anti-social acts in ourselves because this is not a problem with advanced aspirants. With those of us on the Path the big problem is our false concept of spirituality. We must recognize that "the murdered is not guiltless of his own murder". We have to stop considering the evils of others as being sent to us to deepen our forgiveness and to strengthen us through suffering. We have passed that stage of growth. Now we must go on to a higher concept of love and beneficence that knows how to balance severity with mercy.

Along this same line there are those on the Path who erroneously believe they must live in near poverty to attain to spiritual levels of understanding. As Paul Case mentioned in your last lesson, it has been incorrectly translated from the Bible that "the love of money is the root of all evil". It should be, "the lust for money is the root of all evil". Spiritual aspirants often decide that to have plenty of material things in life is being too materialistically oriented. He who understands that consciousness is the creator need not lack proper food, clothing, shelter and enough material possessions to be comfortable. We must realize that we are here to become masters of ourselves and of our environment. We are here to conquer matter. There still exists the old idea that if we suffer enough here we will be happy when we die. The truth is that if we suffer a lot here, we will go right on suffering in the astral world, because that is the consciousness we take with us. Chances are, the one who suffers will then come back into incarnation for a little extra dose, because that is what has been built, that is the pattern that has been set. You see how vital it is to get rid of thinking that suffering is necessary?

When you have really had enough of suffering you will find that you no longer attract to yourself those people and those situations that bring sorrow. Life is to be lived in joy and beauty and fulfillment. To live this way is to pour these lovely qualities into the mass consciousness which is so sorely in need of them.

We have strange concepts that we have brought with us from previous evolutionary levels and previous incarnations that we must now throw away.

The exaltation of Mars in connection with the illusion of appearances, Tarot Key No. 15, assigned to Capricorn, symbolizes this need to destroy old structures of error. Meditation on this Tableau is aimed at helping you first to see the elements in your nature that need elimination, and then helping you to actively eliminate them — really knock them out with authority, even if it hurts in the process. It can be made easier if you learn to laugh at yourself. True spiritual aspirants invariably have a sense of humor. By humor we do not mean the kind that gives cigars to others that blow up in their face. This is not humor — it is sadism. Actually, what a person considers funny is a good indication of his development and true social conscience toward life. Anyone who sees humor in another person's embarrassment or injury is not displaying much maturity. Humor is the ability to laugh at ourselves and our own little pet theories that have caused us so much pain. Thus we see situations in the proper perspective. This comes from an ability to stand aside and see the ludicrous. The Devil, Key 15, is a ludicrous, impossible figure. In essence he is laughable because he is ridiculous. In like manner we can laugh at the ridiculous situations we find ourselves in when we can trace how we ourselves caused the situations. Then we can laugh at our own immaturities, our own misinterpretations that have been the basis of our troubles. When we can laugh we are well on the way to overcoming the need for them any more. Laughter is truly a great medicine for the soul.

TECHNIQUE

Place before you Keys No. 15, 21, 3, 1 and 16. Permeate yourself with the blue-violet associated with Capricorn and intone I A O to A-natural. Meditate on Key 15 with a definite intention to cultivate the positive aspects of the Capricorn type. Continue by meditating on the planetary vibrations correlated with this type in their proper order — imaging the color and intoning the note. This Tableau is particularly well suited to helping us pierce through the veil of outward appearances to the essences that are behind them.

AFFIRMATION

There is but One Creator in all of the universe — "Lord of the Light and of the Darkness". Behind all the veils of outward appearance, even outward terror and outward evil, is the face of the One, if we but have eyes to see. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-seven

AQUARIUS (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

In studying these twelve lessons on the astrological signs, always remember that the forces of all twelve signs are continually finding expression in your life. On the surface these may seem to be nothing more than elementary lessons in astrology. They will be nothing more to the person who reads hastily, grasping only the obvious meaning of the words. Actually, these lessons contain a study of the twelve aspects of that One Hidden Force which specializes itself in the twelve basic types of human individuality.

Aquarius and the Star represent the individuality type of persons born between January 20 and February 18. You need to be thoroughly familiar with the characteristics of Aquarius, whether your birthday falls between these dates or not. These qualities will find an ever-increasing range and depth of expression during the next two thousand years. They will modify science, philosophy and religion. They will change the forms of all things, and bring about great modifications in the social order. For Aquarius is the sign of the New Age, long foreseen by ancient sages. The Vision of that New Age has inspired poets and prophets. The scriptures of all nations bear witness to its coming. You and I are living in its dawn.

It is the age of the Great Transmutation, and alchemically, magically, and mystically, Aquarius is its sign. Even the astrological symbol of Aquarius gives a clue to the Law and Power at work in that Great Transmutation. Two wavy lines, exactly alike, placed one above the other, represent the Hermetic doctrine, "That which is above is as that which is below, and that which is below is as that which is above, for the performance of the miracles of the One Thing." Such is the Law. The nature of the power is shown by the wave-form of the two lines, expressing the idea which Eliphas Levi put into words when he said that the One Force "is a fluid and a perpetual vibration".

For thousands of years, moreover, Aquarius has been represented as the peculiar sign of MAN. It is represented on the tenth Key of the Tarot as an angel with a human face, and the same symbolism is repeated in the twenty-first Key. You have learned, too, that the angel with the face of a man corresponds also to the letter V in the Great Name, I H V H. The letter Vau means "nail" and so suggests the power of connection. It is the sign of the Triumphant and Eternal Intelligence, too, and is connected with the Hierophant. What does all this mean? Simply that in MAN as in no other form of the Life-power's self-expression, is developed the particular phase of the activity of the One Force which binds together whatsoever it chooses to bind together, and separates whatsoever it chooses to separate. "Thou shalt separate the earth from the fire, the subtle from the gross", says the Emerald Tablet, and the words are a promise as well as an admonition. It is because Man can separate, can analyze, can discriminate, that whatsoever he binds on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever he looses on earth shall be loosed in heaven also. Man's glory is the fact that he is the vehicle of the universal thought-force by which the Life-power

directs itself, and determines the forms of its self-expression.

The very word "man" comes from a Sanskrit root meaning "to think", and the primary meaning of that root is "to measure". By thinking we measure the vibratory activities of the Hidden Force. By thinking we separate the etherial from the gross. By thinking we come to perceive the Law which enables us to effect the Great Transmutation.

Look at the picture of the Star. The kneeling figure, you will observe, is the active element of the picture. And what is she doing? Measuring water with her two vases. You have been told that she is a symbol of Truth unveiled to man's perception in his moments of meditation. But do not fail to observe that she has unveiled herself, and that her measuring activity is itself the act of meditation. What I am trying to say is that the Natural Intelligence attributed to this picture is dynamic, that it does something, and that what it does is precisely the activity that we call "thinking" or "meditation". Our mental processes are not something locked up inside our skulls. They are indissolubly connected with all the processes of nature. The human brain is an instrument evolved by Nature through which she unveils herself as She is, in the processes of thought.

Thoughtfulness, therefore, is the basic Aquarian characteristic. This is the sign of the truthseeker and scientist. Love of investigation for its own sake is also a dominant quality. In low, or at least undeveloped, types of Aquarians this urge toward investigation becomes irrepressible curiosity. And from this mere 'nosiness' up to the patient laboratory work of the greatest among pure scientists, we may trace the influence of this desire to get at the facts, to uncover the truth of things.

Undeveloped Aquarians are often so absorbed in the activities of their thought-world that they neglect the actualities of their environment. Even developed natives of this sign, such as the great scientists just mentioned, are often notorious for their absent-mindedness and impracticality. All Aquarians are intensely aware of the reality of their inner life, and it is probably on this account that so many of them take up the study of some phase of occultism. Anything novel interests them, and they have a great deal of inventive ability.

For tradition they care nothing at all. Unconventionality is one of their most obvious characteristics. In these days their lot is easier than it was even a few years ago, for more and more the world is feeling the influence of what is particularly their era in cosmic history. One has only to think of the revolution in women's clothes, of the free discussion of sex knowledge, to see that there is a very definite urge making itself felt everywhere which has for its professed object the revision of ancient customs, so as to make them conform more truly to reality.

That is the keynote behind the real reforms that are taking place, and it is the way to distinguish them clearly from the counterfeit reforms that flourish in these days. The false reforms invariably appeal to tradition, to the authority of the past, to the 'good old ways' of the days that are gone. The true reforms care nothing for the past and emphatically voice their doubts about the goodness of the old ways. "What is the truth about it?" is what they ask. And when the question is answered to their satisfaction,

the next question is, "How may we best adapt our knowledge to our present requirements?"

This is typically Aquarian in spirit, and we must all expect to find the changing world around us expressing more and more of it. And because it will always be true that he finds who seeks, this frank, fearless quest for truth that is in the very air our youth is breathing must inevitably bring about better and better social adjustments, better and better ways and means to make man actually what he has always been potentially, master of every detail of his environment.

Friendliness, too, is an Aquarian characteristic, and it grows as we grow in knowledge. We know Nature better than ever before, and we find new aspects of her eternal friendliness to man wherever we look. We know each other better, too, since the Aquarian inventiveness has made the whole world a neighborhood. Though for some time to come there may be wars and rumors of wars, and there is undoubtedly a great period of testing and trial not far distant, this will be a purging time which will probably bring terror and sorrow to many while it lasts. But even these wars and this purgation will ultimately be recognized by all mankind as part of the Great Work, and as necessary incidents to that work. A house divided against itself shall not stand. A Life-power partly friendly and partly inimical would long since have annihilated itself. Truly does the Bible say, "The Law of the Eternal IS perfect." It is perfect, even when its passing manifestations include poverty, sickness, and all sorts of misery. For the Law never changes, and from the time that we begin to perceive how it works, we need no longer experience its negative manifestations.

The rulers of Aquarius are Saturn and Uranus, typified in Tarot by The World and The Fool. Saturn governs the basic center, where the Fire-force is coiled up. Uranus shares with Mercury the rulership of the pineal gland where the Fire-force rising from the basic center produces illumination. The combined rulership of Uranus and Saturn in Aquarius thus points to the upper and lower extremes of the manifestation of the Life-power in man. Again, "That which is above is as that which is below." The Fool is a measurer, for he bears over his shoulder a measuring-rod, and he surveys the heights beyond him, preparatory to making the journey which will take him to them. In the picture of The World the idea of measurement is suggested, but here the idea of measurement is definitely associated with action. For the central figure of the twenty-first Key dances in her eternal progress onward. Here are hints. Try to work them out.

The Aquarian Sub-types

Between January 20 and January 29 the natives are especially fond of pure science and of analytical investigation. They speak their minds very frankly when they can be persuaded to give an opinion, but they use few words and are very particular in the selection of the friends in whom they confide.

From January 30 to February 8, the influence of Mercury adds vivacity to the temperament. These people have a wider circle of friends, for they love the quick play of cultured, brilliant conversation, especially if the subjects be more or less radical departures from conventional themes or points-

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of-view.

The Venusian strain in the make-up of those born between February 9 and 18 makes them the most lovable and friendly of all the Aquarian types. They are often interested in social work, and are notable for their good manners. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-eight

AQUARIUS (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Tarot Key No. 17, The Star, is assigned to Aquarius. Uranus, Key 0, and Saturn, Key 21, share rulership therein and also rule the first decanate. Tarot Key 1, Mercury, The Magician, rules the second decanate, and Tarot Key 3, Venus, The Empress, rules the third. Aquarius covers the calendar period from January 20 to February 18. However, we want to remind you that those who have Aquarius rising, or those who have one of the rulers of Aquarius (Saturn or Uranus) in Aquarius, will also be likely to partake of these qualities. Planets in the 11th house will also combine with Aquarian characteristics.

Reading an astrology chart is admittedly complex. It takes practice and the development of intuition to be able to correctly analyze a chart and then tune in to the force pattern involved. Keep in mind that an astrological chart is a picture of the heavens at the moment of birth. This picture of the heavens is a reflection of the forces that were coming from every direction in relation to you as the center of the universe. This force pattern, these energies, were in a certain relationship to each other and to you at the time you were born, and thus actually pattern your vibrational make-up. In essence, we are all Light in motion. When we truly know this we will find all our problems easier to handle. As long as we think of ourselves as something rather static, and think of our environment as being quite solid, we are giving subconsciousness a suggestion that something solid fights back at us, and so it does, of course. If we can begin imaging ourselves in terms of light or vibration, in terms of electrical or electro-magnetic forces in a particular kind of motion, we will be creating an image of more pliability and will thus be making dissipation of old patterns and integration of new ones easier.

The new patterns are very much to the point in relation to Aquarius. The basic Aquarian characteristics are given as: friendly, inventive and humanitarian. The aspects friendly and humanitarian are correlated. It follows that anyone who is truly humanitarian is bound to be friendly. People who profess to be humanitarian but do not have very friendly feelings toward most of humanity are kidding themselves. Something like the old adage, "I love humanity in general, but hate people in particular". This type of response — fooling ourselves about our personality characteristics — keeps us from transmuting the vibrational elements within that are in a kind of discord with the universal harmony.

Inventiveness is the other basic Aquarian attribute. This, of course, is when expressed positively. On the negative side there is a tendency to extreme unconventionality. When not extreme, unconventionality can be positive because it leaves us free for new ideas; but negatively expressed it often leads to a state of rebellion against everything and is most infantile. You know how the child rebels, especially the adolescent. At that age rebellion has a purpose. It is a determination to express one's own individuality, a need to break away from the patterns of childhood and attain self-identity. In this age group it is a most positive expression,

even though some of the methods adolescents use are questionable and most trying to more mature minds. When a child does not rebel against the authority of the parents at some point in his growth, he is not likely to mature properly. It is important for those of us who passed through this period so long ago that we do not remember clearly to understand this necessity, thereby not getting quite so upset with our children. This attitude of the young is closely correlated with the Aquarian temperament. Uranus, one of its rulers, is the planet of change and revolution. Change is often difficult during the transitional period. We feel that all our securities are being torn from under us. We may bemoan the loss of traditions that we hold dear. Yet change is the basis of all progress and evolution. Those who adhere to tradition with dogmatic determination circumscribe the future by the past. They inhibit social reforms, progressive legislation and the necessary changes that are taking us toward the true brotherhood of man. These hide-bound traditionalists disparage all progress in terms that are anathema to the conditioned thinking of their day and time. They say in essence, "Let's keep things as they were yesterday". They want to relegate everything into the same pattern and usually give their backward notions a patriotic or spiritual name. The totalitarian governments of Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, Stalin and Mao are examples. It is an attempt to hold evolution bound in a solid structure of weakness. They have used the words "revolution", "progress", "brotherhood", etc. in what has actually been an attempt to stifle individuality. The positive movements of Uranus always are in line with the Divine Motion of Growth.

The Aquarian temperament, basically, loves and gives reverence to individuality, which is true democracy. The preciousness of the individual is defended. This attitude is an inherent part of the Aquarian nature. That is one of the reasons why Aquarians are often thought of as typical Americans. Many of our early presidents were Aquarian natives. They were involved in the revolution for democracy; the revolution that established the importance of individual rights.

Your Aquarians can, then, at times be unconventional to a point where they make fools of themselves. They can carry the desire to be different to a ridiculous, eccentric degree. However, we need these types. Even the undeveloped ones, the ones that make a fetish out of being different, are not tied to the herd mind, at least. Individualism is what we have been struggling towards — attainment of complete individuality. Thus can God live that precious selfhood which each and every one of us is in a unique way.

The first decanate Aquarian, born between January 20 and January 29, has the highlights of: scientific, reserved and brusque. There is a double emphasis on the double rulership of Uranus and Saturn in this decanate, giving them a more conventional attitude than other Aquarians. They are more likely to adhere to tradition. The Saturn co-rulership is especially prominent in this decanate. These Aquarians display a reserve along with tremendous individuality. These seem to be conflicting attributes and tend to make them very interesting people, although less understandable than other types because of this combination of reserve and a desire to be different.

The tendency toward scientific pursuits, the probing mind, is ac-

tually prominent in all Aquarians, no matter what decanate. They are mental types and their desire to be individuals makes them quite ready to go in for occult, metaphysical and astrological studies. Things of the mind are very real to them, even when they consider themselves to be materialists. They excel in research projects for this reason. Being one of the fixed signs, they have perseverance if something is important enough to them. They can get so involved in their own thoughts and projects that they become quite impervious to the rest of the world. The absent-minded professor type is usually found to have some strong placings in Aquarius or the 11th house. However, when no longer completely absorbed, they can change from one enthusiasm to another with startling rapidity.

The knack for invention which they display is the fruit of their great awareness of the thinking processes. They have a marked ability to study their own thoughts, and this, in turn, helps them to tune in to the levels of consciousness that give inspiration for inventions and new innovations. The brusqueness and reserve also attributed to them are displayed in first decanate Aquarians through a dislike of too much talk. When they do say something they are usually very frank, short, and perhaps gruff. They are not meaning to be rude, as they are really a most friendly type; it is just that they do not like to waste time in unnecessary conversation.

The second decanate of Aquarius, January 30 to February 8, ruled by Mercury, is more apt to be talkative. There is quite a distinction between these two types of Aquarians. These decanate rulerships are really immensely enlightening in explaining the difference in characteristics displayed by those born under the same Sun sign. The Mercury sub-rulership gives an ability and love of conversation that is in direct distinction to the first decanate. They love a good, heated argument, but are more likely to call it a good, heated debate, or a good, heated discussion. It takes open-mindedness to indulge successfully in this pastime. Other types are more open to hurt feelings or a decision that they have nothing in common with anyone who disagrees with them. We must all be on guard against this type of response and try to develop the Aquarian's open-minded, good-natured attitude toward differences of opinion. The secret is that he enjoys discussions without getting so personally involved. He is more able to accept the fact that others have a right to hold an opinion other than his own. Usually the Aquarian isn't too tied to any one political group because of his avant garde thinking. He is more apt to be hunting for something a little more progressive, or at least expecting something more progressive to materialize. He is not overly tied to form, name or pattern basically; thus he is less bound. You will understand this progressive tendency more fully when we delve into the esoteric aspects involved with this sign, later in the lesson.

The second decanate has the highlights of: independent, cultured and sociable. This ties in with their love of argument. Anyone who likes to talk is usually sociable. The independence of nature stems from their love of investigation and ability to probe the mental faculties. They are perhaps the most free-thinking of all Aquarian types. On the negative side this probing curiosity can express as a nosy, gossipy desire to know the private affairs of those around them.

The third decanate Aquarian, February 9 to February 18, has the

added influence of Venus, who always bestows qualities that make for an extra acceptability of others and by others. We have the highlights of: brotherly, humane and polite for this decanate. This is the Libran Venus vibration that loves peace and gives an extra capacity for politeness, charm and social intercourse. The ease they display in social situations mitigates the basic Aquarian tendency to rebellion against anything that has to do with tradition. They are well suited to political life because of these charming qualities, but will usually express their basic Aquarian nature by going in for avant garde reforms. The humane attribute is very strong in all Aquarians, of course, but with that extra touch in the third decanate.

On the negative side, Aquarians can be more opinionated than perhaps any other sign in the zodiac, with the possible exception of Leo. These two types, being opposites and complements, reflect each other's qualities like a mirror, as, incidentally, do all opposites. If the Aquarian decides that a certain idea is true he can hang on to it stubbornly and drive everybody crazy with his often untenable ideas. No one can change his mind until he himself takes on some new data. Then he will wholeheartedly change, but usually replaces one idea with another just as definite. It is because he himself found the new data that he is able to suddenly switch. It is part of the revolutionary element in his nature. He can also display a lack of tact that is most distressing to emotionally sensitive types. If he wants to find something out he can ask embarrassingly direct questions because of his curiosity. These negative traits, however, are not too dangerous because despite the fact that Aquarius is a fixed sign, natives are more easily able to accept change.

They are the least fixed of the fixed signs, being one of the air triplicity. In the area of love, Aquarians are inclined to impersonal types of loving and liking, not usually displaying intense personal emotions. Their type of love is a more all-encompassing feeling for humanity as a whole, rather than a drive to deep personal attachments. Therefore they find it difficult to become attached to one individual unless other things in the chart indicate emotional depth in personal areas. If you desire one-pointed personal love and attention in a marriage partner, the Aquarian would not be your best choice. However, if you are the kind who loves to have your freedom and individuality respected and do not need the emotional security that comes from a complete attachment for a specific individual, you will be most happy with the Aquarian native. Very few people, however, feel emotionally secure with a mate who does not cling in certain ways. Most of us haven't developed enough self-security, so we tend to need the security of another individual's complete attachment to us.

As you know from your earlier studies, Tarot Key No. 17, related to Aquarius, is also related to meditation. Meditation is the ability to utilize our mind-stuff constructively. Our mind-stuff is not in the brain. Our brain is a receptive instrument, and each of us is a particular center for expressing cosmic thought processes. The nude figure in Key 17 is pouring water back and forth in a vase — pouring out manifestation, as it were. The other hand is dipping in and out of the pool. This symbolizes the process of keeping the cosmic mental energy in a specific area and a specific direction. However, this mental energy often gets frozen into too definite a pattern. That is part of our problem. Any idea you have about your own basic nature that is too set hinders further growth. The minute we say, I

am this, or I am that, with too much fixity we become frozen in our ideas about our own capacities. We are not whirling with the full zodiac when we have too definite ideas about our own traits. This is one of the great blocks. The power of the Uranus vibration, connected with this Tableau, will help us dissolve our too fixed notions about ourselves.

In our lesson on the Aquarian Age we discussed the fact that at the time Uranus was discovered in the heavens the new dispensation was ushered in. Man's consciousness had come to the place in its evolution where it was open to the vibrational forces that we now call the New Age, connected with the establishment of a true brotherhood of man. We are now on the cusp of Aquarius and actually into the New Age. We have the next 2,000 years to accomplish this true brotherhood in all its perfection. However, it is still our responsibility to do what we can now. There is a story of two Hindu teachers that symbolizes this need to do what we can to alleviate misery now, no matter how sure we are that all will be well in the future. As two Hindu teachers were walking along a river they heard a call for help. Some one was drowning. One of the teachers began removing his robe in order to rescue the drowning man. The other teacher said, "Oh, don't do that; you will be interfering with his Karma." The first teacher shrugged him aside, jumped into the river, and saved the man. Turning to his friend he said, "Apparently it was his Karma to be saved." Some people have an erroneous idea of just what Karma is and use it as an excuse for not helping their fellow man. The brotherhood of man can be achieved only by those individuals who have arrived at a place in their growth where they truly feel the unity of all mankind and their responsibility to others. What is it to feel this? It is to know that I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER.

This is the basis for continuing with this lifewave into the New Age. Those who cannot comprehend this idea will have to wait for the next lifewave. Let us go back to what it means to be 'my brother's keeper'. If we adhere too strongly to the past, if we hang on to that which was, we are fighting the whole spirit of evolution and growth, the whole spirit of brotherhood. Nothing can stand still. The conventional, the traditional, the classical, all have their place as we proceed with our growth. There are certain ideas, certain traditions, that have beauty and value and are worth keeping. But those things that are worth keeping will not stifle progress. They will not include the ideas that keep today the way it was yesterday; that keep us from developing broader vistas; that disregard the welfare of others. Humanity in the 20th century admittedly has not evolved enough to live in, act in and administrate a true spiritual social order, but there are many individuals who are ready. The criterion is a social conscience. There are those who can quote the Bible from cover to cover or who can sit in meditation for hours, but if they still have a need to disparage others to bolster their own ego importance, or if they do not consider the hunger and suffering in the world as a problem that they must help mitigate — they have not yet touched the unity of life; they have not comprehended the idea of brotherhood. On the other hand, a person can profess to be an atheist, but if he loves his fellow man and proves it by concern for his welfare and concern for the need to remedy man's inhumanity to man in all its devious forms, then he is close to God no matter how he denies His existence.

It is for us as advanced B.O.T.A. students to understand what true spirituality is. Any time any of us become unconcerned about the suffering

of others, we are expressing a feeling of separation from the rest of life. If one of your organs were indifferent to the welfare of the others in your body, you could not stay alive for long, at least not in proper function. The unity of life is feeling for others; therefore we no longer need certain expressions of the competitive spirit to have a wholesome society. Competition springs from survival of the fittest and is another of the scaffolds of the past. It was necessary at one stage of evolution because the antagonistic spirit developed individuality. But now the principle of competition must begin to be expressed in its higher function as competition against personal inadequacies; competition against our own lesser stages of development. Thus the same principle is used in its highest, most constructive sense to further the evolution of the individual units of society. This is the spirit of Uranus, ruler of Aquarius. The casting off of the old ways of thinking and feeling, making way for the New Age. Uranus helps us drop all of these old ideas which do not belong in the spiritually oriented heart. It is your responsibility to God and to each other to wash out all discrimination that has to do with your brother, whatever country he lives in, whatever neighborhood he inhabits, or whatever color he is. A true brotherhood of man sees every human being as a precious, revered individual. The next time you hear anybody make derogatory remarks about one of your brothers or sisters of other races, creeds or beliefs — speak up like the good, courageous Aquarian would do. You will be doing your part to put an end to separation. We are not loving God if we are not loving and accepting our fellow man.

TECHNIQUE

Place Keys No. 17, 0, 21, 1 and 3 before you. Intone A-sharp while you visualize a true violet surrounding and permeating you completely. Bring up to mind the positive qualities of the Aquarian type and make it your definite intention to cultivate these qualities. We are attempting to become the whole zodiac so the positive qualities of each and every sign must be available to us in essence. We all need the progressive, broad-minded inventiveness of the Aquarian. Complete your practice by intoning the proper note and visualizing the color corresponding to the planetary vibrations included in this Tableau.

AFFIRMATION

I am ready to cast off all the old ways of thinking and feeling that have held me in bondage. I am ready for the New Age consciousness, the consciousness that is aware that life is a unity and that every seemingly separated aspect of life is in truth an expression of the ONE. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Forty-nine

PISCES (1)

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

Pisces and the Moon, Tarot Key No. 18, represent the individuality type of persons born between February 19 and March 20. Pisces is a mutable or common sign belonging to the watery triplicity, so that its elemental quality is essentially represented by Neptune and the Hanged Man.

In the old astrology, Jupiter (the Wheel of Fortune) was reckoned as the sole ruler of Pisces, but since the beginning of the period of transition into the Aquarian Age, Neptune (the Hanged Man) has also been recognized as co-ruler. During the last two centuries of the Age of Pisces, from which we are now passing into the Age of Aquarius, the fact that the physical organism of man is part and parcel of the cosmic rotation of forces represented by the Wheel of Fortune has been abundantly demonstrated by exoteric science. And now it is beginning to be understood by even the average human being that his only hope of satisfactory adjustment to life is to OBEY the Law which the Wheel of Fortune represents.

This idea of obedience is what the Hanged Man symbolizes, and for the practical occultist obedience means far more than it does to the average man. Perhaps the most emphatic aspect of the occultist's idea of obedience is his realization that he does not obey a law imposed upon him from without, but a law which is proceeding from the center of his own being. The occultist is true to his real inner nature, rather than cringingly subservient to the demands of an external compulsion. His mental attitude is therefore a complete reversal of the average man's, for as Jacob Boehme puts it, "He walks in all things contrary to the world."

The developed Piscean individuality intuitively recognizes the fact of utter dependence of personality upon Life itself. Therefore it is that the chart says Pisceans are "sacrificing". Yet this will be misunderstood if it be supposed that the actions which the rest of the world interprets as sacrifice are in any way painful or undesirable to the person who performs them. Look at the Hanged Man. Observe the aureole around his head. See the calm happiness of his expression. He is in a situation that he has chosen himself, and to him it is more satisfactory than any other. Nevertheless, it is true that the developed Piscean temperament has a capacity for understanding the true law of Sacrifice better than most people, and an ability to carry that understanding into practical execution.

This ability finds expression, as a rule, in works of charity and altruistic service to his neighbor. Its highest expression is in the practice of making the whole life an expression of devotion to Life itself. Thus among developed Pisceans we find many followers of what in occultism is called the Path of Devotion. This is the path known in India as Bhakti Yoga, the path of union by love. It is followed by those who devote every action, small or great, to the service of the Lord of the Universe. It is the typical path of the religious devotee.

In somewhat less evolved Pisceans it often takes form as devotion to a teacher or to a cause. And this single-hearted devotion, unless wisely guided, is sometimes the origin of much strife and even of bloodshed. This is the devotion of the partisan in politics, the devotion of the member of one religious denomination to that denomination only. Some of the finest and noblest actions recorded in human history have been inspired by such devotion, but so, alas, have been some of the worst instances of intolerance and bigotry, of which so many examples have occurred during the last two thousand years.

Developed Pisceans, again, are natural occultists, though seldom of the scientific type. They are natural psychics. They feel the invisible side of life. They respond emotionally and devotionally to the influence of the forces behind the veil of appearances. When this tendency is not balanced by intellectual training, they are likely to become negative mediums for all sorts of obsessing entities. Their safeguard is to take no step in psychic unfoldment without taking a step in the intellectual, rational explanation of their experience. Their greatest danger is spiritual pride, engendered by the erroneous notion that they are more 'spiritual' because they are aware of planes of life-activity hidden from the average human being.

You will note in your chart that Venus (the Empress) is exalted in Pisces. Venus is the force that works in imagination, and it is raised to its highest manifestation in Pisces, because the occult use of imagination to make patterns for subconscious activity is what enables us to build finer and better bodies, to serve as vehicles for the subtle forces of the invisible side of life. Subconsciousness is the body-builder, and imagination draws and sets upon the trestleboard the patterns for the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. What is this house? St. Paul tells us that it is sown a corruptible body, and reaped an incorruptible one. It is a physical body which is indestructible by anything save its owner's wish to disintegrate it. Masters of life have such bodies, and such control over the vibratory forces playing through them that whenever they wish to use a physical body, they can integrate it instantly, and as quickly disintegrate it, when there is no further need to function on the physical plane. They are completely the masters of the mode of consciousness attributed to Pisces in your tableau — Corporeal Intelligence. The 18th Key contains in its symbols many subtle hints as to the process of unfoldment which leads ultimately to this degree of mastery. I cannot presume to unfold that symbolism now, even were ordinary language adequate to convey its meaning. But here is a quotation from an ancient alchemical treatise, THE BOOK OF LAMBSRING, which may serve as commentary on the picture:

"Alexander writes from Persia that a wolf and a dog are in this field, which as the Sages say, are descended from the same stock but the wolf comes from the East, and the dog from the West. They are full of jealousy, fury, rage and madness; one kills the other, and from them comes a great poison. But when they are restored to life, they are clearly shewn to be the Great and Precious Medicine, the most glorious Remedy upon earth, which refreshes and restores the Sages, who render thanks to God, and do praise Him."

You will find little information in this quotation if you approach it

intellectually. Let it sink into your subconsciousness. Like a seed, it will sprout and bear fruit. What grows from it will bear little resemblance to the seed, but it will give you a new light. By way of hints, however, I may give you these. East is the place of dawn, and of the origins of life. Westward the course of empire takes its way, it has been said, and the West is the symbolic direction associated with achievement and completion. East is the garden of the Empress, with its spontaneous natural fertility. West is the domain of Law, associated in Tarot with the Wheel of Fortune, and representing the modification, under Law, of natural impulse. East is Nature, and West is Art. The two seem to be furiously at odds, and out of their conflict comes a poison, which does indeed intoxicate our whole civilization. But when these two are "restored to life", when the Life-sources at work in both Nature and Art are once more clearly perceived, out of their balanced activity comes the Great Medicine. Plainer I cannot speak.

The color associated with Pisces is violet-red, correlated with the tone B-natural. Use this color and sound for foot troubles, such as aching feet, poor circulation and the like. Since Pisces has a reflex action in Virgo, this color and sound may also be used for intestinal troubles, dropsy, and to overcome the desire for drugs and drink.

The Pisces Sub-types

Between February 19 and 28 are born the most typical Pisceans. They are under the combined rulership of Jupiter and Neptune. They are described in the chart as: benignant, hospitable, and philanthropic. Often they devote themselves to social work, and usually they have a keen realization of the fact of brotherhood.

Those born between March 1 and 10 are under the additional rulership of the Moon. They are usually very changeable and rather mediumistic, a tendency which needs carefully to be guided, lest it subject them to obsession. They love to be alone and are usually deeply religious.

The influence of the activity vibration, Mars, is added to those who are born between March 11 and 20. They are more keenly alert to the actualities of their environment than the other natives of Pisces. Often they are great travelers, with a keen power of observation that makes the narratives of their journeys most interesting. Typical of this decanate was Sir Richard Burton, one of the few Christians who made the pilgrimage to Mecca, disguised as a Mohammedan. He also translated the ARABIAN NIGHTS, and his notes thereto show his interest in occultism. Algernon Blackwood, author of many works of occult fiction, was also born in this decanate. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Fifty

PISCES (2)

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

Key No. 18, The Moon, symbolizes the twelfth sign of the zodiac, Pisces. Neptune and Jupiter, Keys 12 and 10, are co-rulers of this sign and, of course, rule the first decanate. The Moon, Key 2 (The High Priestess), rules the second decanate, and Mars, Key 16, rules the third. Venus, Key 3, exalted in Pisces, completes our Tableau.

Pisces is one of the three occult, or mystical, signs. All three water signs are so considered, giving those of the water triplicity a natural capacity for supersensory experiences. These experiences can vary from the mystically exalted to the lowest astral awarenesses. The type of awareness depends not only on the evolutionary level of the native, but also upon astrological and other conditions. Psychic vehicles of high development can, under certain conditions, be open to lower astral experiences. We will take this up later in the lesson.

We hope you have studied the zodiacal wheel given you with an earlier lesson. You will find it is much easier to deal with certain levels of consciousness when you train yourself in this type of shorthand. The language of symbols is the true language of subconscious and superconscious states. In order to really gather your consciousness together, in order to participate in what is often called fourth dimensional consciousness, you must develop this ability to be aware of many things at once, as a correlated whole. This is what B.O.T.A. training is helping you to accomplish. All the Tarot symbolism and all astrological symbols are part of this shorthand. Eventually, you should be able to synthesize all the various attributions of, say, one Key, into a whole. Just thinking of Aries, for example, will bring before your mind immediately the Key, the number, the letter, the color, the tone, the bodily area, the planetary vibrations involved, the Path of the Tree, etc. This method also enables you to handle the more intense vibrational forces that expand awareness to receive superconscious levels of experience. We train ourselves away from verbalism into the symbolic representations of the verbalism — the pictorial counterparts. Thus one little sign can mean a thousand things at once. That is why it is important not to push away any of the details of the training we give you.

The Piscean over-all personality is said to be: occult, benevolent and sacrificing. Occult applies to all of the water signs, as you have seen. The Piscean type, on the whole, is not very scientific about his supersensory awarenesses. He is naturally so psychic or mediumistic, so easily aware of supersensory states, that he doesn't have the drive to be scientific about them. To him it is so, and of course, for him it is so. Here again, as with all qualities, it depends upon the level of development as to just how the Piscean is going to interpret what he can sense in this way. The undeveloped Piscean will often be unable to handle this ease of supersensory experience, whereas the more highly evolved native will be an extraordinary individual indeed. In the Piscean you have more saintly types, for instance, than in any other sign of the zodiac. On the other hand, you also have more alcoholics and drug addicts.

All Pisceans have a nature that makes sacrifice for what they believe in easy. However, their development determines upon what level the sacrifice will take place. They have a natural tendency to benevolence, but even benevolence can be dangerous in undeveloped types. The Inquisitions were the result of benevolence, believe it or not. The leaders of those infamous tortures in the name of religion were determined to save people's souls from hell even if they had to torture them to death. They felt righteous, but because they were undeveloped, unevolved and ignorant, their benevolence expressed itself in exactly the opposite manner. The fanaticism that can come from a truly sacrificing nature can be one of the most destructive things on the face of the earth. We certainly hope there aren't too many of this type left on our planet. The Crusaders, with religious fervor, went out and killed the infidels in the name of God. The Mohammedans, in turn, killed every Christian they could find so as to assure themselves a better spot in heaven. Religious fervor can be horrible when united with bigotry and separativeness. Basically, then, the Piscean type is benevolent and sacrificing by nature, but the way it expresses depends upon the evolutionary level.

The first decanate, ruled by Neptune and Jupiter, are the most typical Pisceans. They are given the highlights of: benign, hospitable and philanthropic. You will find these qualities true of all Pisceans to some degree. The Jupiter co-rulership is strong in the first decanate, giving an expansive, philanthropic quality. Neptune, the mystical planet, bestows refined emotions. Pisceans are usually deeply emotional in their religious aspirations. Negatively, this can express, as we have seen, in fanaticism — either religious, political or national. Some types of fanatical worship of forms or heads of government are of this nature. Religious fanaticism can express in many areas, even when God is denied.

Those born in the second decanate of Pisces, sub-ruled by the Moon, are usually the most mediumistic and psychic of the entire sign. They are given the highlights of: pious, retiring and mediumistic. The psychism of second decanate Pisceans often expresses as a telepathic rapport with others. Those who are telepathic are not always aware of it. They can be receiving others' thoughts and emotions and think that they are their own. This is one reason why Pisceans need occult training. They need to understand these subtle psychic levels that they are apt to be easily open to. They need to learn to differentiate between their own thoughts and emotions and those that they tune in to from others. This ability to differentiate our own thoughts and emotions from those of others is actually very important for all of us. Through our studies and practices we have begun to open our inner sensorium. Many of our problems are caused because, through misinterpretations, we permit ourselves to become automatic response mechanisms for other peoples' thinking and feeling processes. For example, people can actually compel us to reject them. If they have a neurosis along this line, if they have guilts and feel unlovable, they emanate from this undercurrent level the feelings and attitudes that will actually force us to say or do the thing that will strengthen their feelings of rejection or martyrdom. By understanding this possibility we can guard ourselves against this type of automatic response, guard ourselves against saying and doing things to fulfill other peoples' neurotic needs. Pisceans have to be especially careful in this area because of their sensitive psychic vehicles. They can easily become pawns of the magnetic

emanations of others. However, they are usually very clever about seeing into the inner motives of others, unless an undeveloped area in their own personality blocks their perception.

This ease in receiving the emanations of others works in the positive areas too. It depends on what the other person is emanating. They can also pick up and respond readily to loving, humanitarian vibrations. All in all, then, Pisceans' sensitivity to others is so acute that it is most necessary for them to understand this tendency so as to guard themselves against negative responses.

The third decanate of Pisces has the highlights of: vigilant, cordial and suave. They are smooth, subtle diplomats with unusual ability to sense the reactions and wants of other people. This sensitivity to the undercurrents of consciousness gives them a cordial, tactful manner that endears them to others. Because of the sub-rulership of Mars, third decanate Pisceans have an added quality of vigilance and watchfulness. Those of this decanate have the same subtle awarenesses possessed by all Pisceans, but they are the least prone to becoming automatic responders because of the fiery element that the Mars vibration adds.

Pisceans in general are usually very talented in some way or another. They have a greater capacity for creative imagination than just about any other sign in the zodiac, unless their ruling planet or other important aspects give an affliction that blocks their ability to express constructively. In cases of affliction they can become very wild dreamers; the imaginative ability would still be present, but would be likely to express in completely impractical and untenable ways. In general, however, it is through the Piscean part of our nature that some of the most advantageous elements come into humanity.

Pisceans also have the ability to be very methodical, doing things in an accurate and complete manner. This tendency, combined with creative imagination, gives a distinct ability to bring new combinations into manifestation. However, afflictions involving either of the rulers or serious afflictions to the Moon can give Pisceans more frustrations and sorrows than just about any sign in the zodiac. The Piscean, therefore, suffers a great deal from despondency. This is true even of well developed natives. They are prone to deep despairs and, as a rule, do not have much confidence in themselves. That is one of the reasons why they can often be so retiring. The thing you should watch for in Pisceans, especially if one is close to you, is this tendency to despondency, because there is a tremendous emotional sensitivity in their nature. You have to be very careful with them not to unthinkingly say cruel or cutting things. They are so easily devastated by others. We should be careful, of course, in any case, with all people, but if you happen to be very closely related to Pisceans you need to be extra careful with them and give them as much encouragement as possible to help bring out their marvelous creative ability.

You can always depend on a Piscean to have a feeling of benevolence toward whatever group he feels he is associated with, even if he is undeveloped. For instance, if a Piscean belongs to the Elks, or the Boy Scouts, or any organization, he will do anything and everything, including using the sacrificing quality mentioned earlier, to help bring about the best welfare

of whatever group he is associated with.

In regard to your own Piscean nature, which we all have, keep in mind that your ability and capacity to experience the mystical states has to do with the symbolism of Tarot Key No. 18. You must be willing to develop this mystical awareness step by step, methodically, as is part of the Piscean nature.

Water, as you know, is a symbol of root consciousness. The pool in Key 18 relates to this primordial consciousness. The evolution of our self-consciousness takes place within this water of conscious substance. Everything is really the universal substance within which we live and move and have our being. The crab emerging from the pool symbolizes the beginning of the development of individuality, the development of individual consciousness from the sea of undifferentiated All-Consciousness. Individuality is really a vibrational field within this One Substance, a field for a specific expression of God. The dog and the wolf are further developments of consciousness and together symbolize the balance of art and nature necessary for those who tread the Path of Return. The Path continues to the two towers, symbols of the limits of natural humanity, then goes on to the mountain top, symbol of the attainment of 'more than man'. The Moon overhead is another symbol of the subconscious substance from which self-consciousness is evolved by God. It isn't that any levels of consciousness are really separate. They are simply an expanded awareness of total consciousness, total spirit. They are different modes of expression for the One.

It is important to remember, in relation to the esoteric aspects of Key 18, that we are still partially under the influence of the Piscean dispensation; still being somewhat dominated by the patterns developed during its reign. We are all being impacted by two very strong forces as a mass evolutionary group. During the Piscean Age, religious fervor and mystical aspiration were developed. Since the Aquarian vibration has begun its influence, awareness of evolution as we know it has developed. In earlier centuries orthodox religion fought scientific discovery practically every step of the way. The first Aquarian types were persecuted, tortured and disparaged. The era of persecution, in one way, exemplified the sacrificial qualities of the positive Piscean temperament. There were those who were willing to martyr themselves in their desire to help humanity take its next steps toward the New Age. It always takes these few advanced souls, who are developed beyond most of humanity, to start a new path. They take the first steps and thus help to make the path easier for those who follow.

That is why it is so important for us to recognize what is involved now. There is an interpermeation of the age that was and the coming in of the next age. The fact that you are incarnated during this period and are aspirants shows that you certainly have developed the devotional nature which is a vital and important part of evolution. We should ask ourselves, however, if we are using our religious fervor, our devotional nature, in a manner that is in line with the New Age. We must be able to see that the entire universe is an orderly progression of circular motion. Tarot Key No. 10, The Wheel of Fortune, assigned to Jupiter (one of the rulers of Pisces), symbolizes this universal motion. Everything and everybody is a divine expression no matter how it appears to our limited senses. Neptune (the other ruler of Pisces), Key 12, symbolizes the sacrificial quality,

the reversal or "walking contrary to the world". One of the meanings of this phrase is that we must free ourselves from mass mind concepts. We must resist the tendency, still so prevalent in the world, to condemnation or hatred of our fellow man, no matter to what group, race or religion he may belong. This does not mean that we do not recognize the ignorant, even barbaric, customs and ideas of certain groups. We recognize them for what they are, objectively, without fervor, and at the same time we send them our love and compassion. We must become so stabilized, as depicted in Key No. 12, in the Universal Law, Key 10, that no stimulus can make us react with fervor or fanaticism against anything or anybody.

Venus, Tarot Key No. 3, is exalted in Pisces. Thus in Pisces the love nature is exalted. You will usually find that those who have Venus in Pisces are warm and loving — whatever else they might have or not have. In terms of this Tableau and the life wave that we are a part of, Venus exalted in Pisces symbolizes our changing patterns of response as we learn to reverse our emotional reactions from those of fear and suspicion to those of love and compassion for our fellow man. The New Age has to do with transmuting our love nature so that our devotional fervor will expand itself into a brotherhood of man. As evolution progressed man first evolved a love for those close to him — his family, comrades, etc. Then his beneficent feelings expanded to include trible affinities, and on up to love of country or nation. But the new dispensation will make us citizens of the world. Our love must include all of humanity. God's children live on all parts of the globe. This doesn't mean that you stop loving any of your smaller, more intimate, groupings. You are being faithful to the more personal forms of love when you include all of life in what you feel. This may sound simple, but it is not really that easy to hold this attitude consistently.

We have carried over from past incarnations hatreds, betrayals, violence, cruelties — some of the most savage kind — and most of it is deep in subconsciousness. All of our work is aimed at transmuting these subconscious responses that we carry with us, not only from our own past lives, but also because we are part of humanity as a whole and share its errors as well as its riches. We of this age have much more help available to us than those of the past. We have help from the stars and from those who have gone before. This is the age of progress and change. We, as aspirants, have a vital role to play in helping to bring in the reign of brotherhood through intelligent knowledge of the unity of all of life.

TECHNIQUE

Place Tarot Keys No. 18, 12, 10, 2, 16 and 3 before you. Meditate first on Key 18, intoning B-natural and imaging a red-violet aura surrounding you. This Tableau is a most potent one for developing awareness of the subtle undercurrent levels of emotion. It will help you in your relationships with others because you will learn to 'feel' with them, learn to anticipate their inner needs and problems. Proceed with this Technique by meditating on each of the planetary Keys. Attempt to tune into just how these planetary vibrations express through this zodiacal type.

AFFIRMATION

Every star, every planet, every living creature — even that which does not seem to express life — is part of my larger Self. My ever-growing awareness of this Unity fills me with love for all Its expressions. As the wheel of evolution turns, the sense of aloneness, the feeling of separation that brings sorrow and pain will melt into an all-pervading knowledge that I am truly One with All of Life. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Fifty-one

YOUR PERSONAL TABLEAU

(based on the notebook of Paul Foster Case)

With this lesson we will learn to set up our individual Tableau. We have often spoken of individuality as contrasted with personality. Let me bring to your mind again just what this contrast is. Your individuality is your Inner Self. Your personality is the actor's mask through which your individuality speaks. Your individuality is the Charioteer, your personality is the Chariot. Your individuality is indicated by the Tarot Key related to your Sun Sign, which I am certain you have all figured out by now. If you are a Taurean, Key No. 5 is your Individuality Key. If you are a Libran, Key No. 11 is your Individuality Key, etc. Your Individuality Key is the first one to make up your Tableau. It is the one to meditate on in terms of developing the mental qualities of your innermost self. This Key will help you understand more fully who and what you are. It will help you bring out the expression of the specialization which you are for God.

The next Tarot Key you have to look for is the one that symbolizes your Personality Key. It is correlated with your Ascendant. At the moment you were born the sign that was rising in the east is your Ascendant. That is why it is important to have your time of birth. If you do not have your chart we suggest that you have one set up for you. Any competent astrologer can do this for you. We have asked that you do not send to us at Headquarters for the erection of charts, as we are not equipped for this either time- or staff-wise. If you do not know your time of birth, there are astrologers who can ascertain this for you too. At the end of this lesson we will give you a method for finding your rising sign using the astrological wheel given you with an earlier lesson. You must know your time of birth to use this, however.

The first Key, then, in your personal Tableau will be your Sun Sign. The next Key will be the one that correlates with your Ascendant. For example, if you were born with the sun in Aries, your first Key would be Key 4. If your rising sign, or ascendant, were Aquarius, your next Key would be Key 17. That is your Personality Key.

The third Key in your personal Tableau will represent your 'problem'. By problem we mean the particular aspect of life which you need to understand in order to be able to adjust yourself to the conditions of your environment. All your personal problems hinge, in one way or another, upon this main problem. All your troubles and difficulties have a mental cause, which is your lack of unfoldment in some particular field of consciousness. That field is represented by a Tarot Key. When you know what that Key is, you can use it to evoke the mental qualities corresponding to it. As these unfold, they will enable you to solve your major problem and all the minor problems depending on it. To find your Problem Key, add the number of your Individuality Key to the number of your Personality Key. If the number adds to less than 22, it is the number of your Problem Key. If it is 22 or over, add its digits together. The resulting number will be that of your Problem Key. Thus, for example, if your Individuality Key is Cancer, Key 7, and your Personality Key is Leo, Key 8, to find your Problem Key you add them to-

gether. Your Problem Key would thus be Key 15. If, however, your Individuality Key is Aquarius, Key 17, and your Personality Key is Capricorn, Key 15, adding them together gives 32. Because this number is over 21, you add the digits which give Key 5, The Hierophant, as your Problem Key.

The next Key to find in your personal Tableau is the Solution Key. This Key indicates the kind of consciousness which you need to develop in order to understand your life problem. It is determined by finding the difference between the number of your Individuality Key and your Personality Key. In the above example, where the Individuality Key is Cancer, Key 7, and the Personality Key is Leo, Key 8, you would subtract the smaller from the larger, no matter which is first. The Solution Key would thus be Key 1, The Magician. In the second example where the Individuality Key is Aquarius, Key 17, and the Personality Key is Capricorn, Key 15, the Solution Key would be Key 2, The High Priestess. For people born between 6:00 and 8:00 A.M. the Solution Key is always Key 0, because their Individuality Key and their Personality Key are the same. This Solution Key is that which is going to help you understand, or stimulate those mental and emotional forces in you which will give you the ability to understand, your problem. It will help you to find how your actions, attitudes, etc. are at the root of your basic life problem.

You now have four Tarot Keys in your personal Tableau. The Individuality Key, the Personality Key, the Problem Key and the Solution Key. The next Tarot Key we will find is called the Means Key. The means is the phase of consciousness through which the mental activity indicated by your Solution Key may be applied to understanding the underlying mental causes of your life problem, as indicated by your Problem Key. You find the Means Key by ascertaining the difference between the number of your Solution Key and the number of your Problem Key. In the two examples given, the first one had Key 15 as the Problem Key and Key 1 as the Solution Key. Therefore, by subtracting Key 1 from Key 15 you get Key 14 as the Means Key. In the second example the Problem Key was Key 5 because the digits of the sum of Keys 17 and 15 were added together. The Solution Key was Key 2. Therefore, in the second example the Means Key would be Key 3, The Empress.

Let us recapitulate the steps that we have taken thus far:

- (1) Your Individuality Key is determined by the Tarot Key corresponding to your Sun sign in Astrology.
- (2) Your Personality Key is determined by the Tarot Key corresponding to your Ascendant in Astrology.
- (3) Add the numbers of these two Keys. If less than 22, the sum is the number of your problem Key. If 22 or more, add the digits. Their sum is the number of your Problem Key.
- (4) Find the difference between the number of your Individuality Key and the number of your Personality Key. This is the number of your Solution Key.
- (5) Find the difference between the numbers of your Problem Key and your Solution Key. This is the number of the Key to the Means for solving your problem.

Key 15
Key 13
Key 10
Key 2
8

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Concentrate on your Individuality Key to develop the mental qualities of your inner self. Concentrate on your Personality Key to perfect the mental, astral and physical vehicles of your inner self. Concentrate on your Problem Key to perfect the mental qualities whose imperfect expression is the real cause of all your difficulties. Concentrate on the Solution Key to awaken into activity the mental powers which will aid you forward in your quest for a better understanding of your life problem, and of all the minor problems which are its consequence. Concentrate upon the Means Key in order to evoke those forms of conscious energy which will enable you to apply your solution to your problem.

By doing these things you will gradually grow into a better understanding of your inner life, and into a more competent and effective use of its personal vehicle. The mental causes of your difficulties will begin to be evident to you. The way to overcome these mental causes will show itself. Finally, your subconsciousness, responding to the Means Key, will show you how to work out methods for solving your particular problems.

15
13
10
2
8
—
48-12

This is your basic Personal Tableau. There is, however, another Key to be added to this, called the Integration Key. It is not put in the row with the other five Keys. It is put below the Tableau. The Integration Key is arrived at in this way. Add all the numbers that the Tableau holds. Let us take our first example again. You would add Keys 7, 8, 15, 1 and 14. They add to 45, which digits to 9. Therefore Key 9 would be the Integration Key and would be placed below Key 15, the Problem Key in the Personal Tableau. The Integration Key is meant to help you gain the ability to deal with the subtle intricacies of consciousness so that they can be understood more as a correlated whole. This Key basically helps integrate the Solution to the Problem through the Means Key, thus combining Individuality with Personality so that they can function as a balanced whole.

We will now discuss a method for determining your Personality Key with the use of the Astrological Wheel given you with an earlier lesson. This is not sufficiently accurate for the intricate calculations by means of which astrologers make progressed horoscopes, etc. Further, it does not take into consideration 'interceptions'; thus it is based on 'equal house astrology'. Some astrologers do prefer this method, so it will be accurate enough for finding the Ascendant.

Finding Your Rising Sign

Locate your date of birth from the numbers in the outside circle and mark its approximate position on the chart.

The circle of the Zodiac represented by this chart contains 360 degrees, as do all circles. Since those 360 degrees pass the eastern horizon each twenty-four hours, 30 degrees, or one sign, pass that point every two hours. Now, if you will look at the outer circle of the chart, you will see that each sign is subdivided into three parts. Each of these subdivisions of a sign contains 10 degrees. Since those three subdivisions of a sign pass the eastern horizon in two hours, or 120 minutes, one division, or 10 degrees, will pass in one-third of two hours, or 40 minutes.

If you were born at 6:00 A.M., the position of the zodiac corres-

ponding to the mark you have made on the chart was rising over the eastern horizon of the earth, and the sign indicated by the mark is therefore your Rising Sign, as well as your Sun Sign. If you were born earlier or later than 6:00 A.M., some other position on the chart will indicate your Rising Sign. For example, say you were born at 6:40 A.M., April 12. Your first mark will be placed in the segment of the outer circle between the figures 4/10 and 4/19. Your Rising Sign will be indicated by another mark, which will be placed ten degrees further around the circle, in the direction indicated by the numbers of the inner circle. At 6:40, forty minutes have elapsed since sunrise, and you have seen that on the chart a space of 10 degrees is equivalent to forty minutes. Hence your second mark will in this instance be placed between the numbers 4/20 and 4/29. The first mark indicates that your Sun sign is Aries, and the second one indicates that your Rising sign is Taurus.

If you were born at 11:30 A.M. on January 16, your first mark, which indicates your Sun sign, will be about halfway between the dates 1/10 and 1/19 in the outer circle as before. Allowing forty minutes to each ten degrees, the mark for your Rising sign will be placed just a little above the date 4/9 and will indicate Aries as the Rising sign.

In other words, if you were born between 6:00 A.M. of your birthday and the following midnight, count forward ten degrees on the chart for every forty minutes that elapsed between 6:00 A.M. and your hour of birth. You can easily estimate this if you remember that 10 degrees is always a space on the circumference of the outer circle equal in width to one of the little segments containing the dates. By counting forward, we mean to count in the direction of the number of the signs as given in the inner circle.

If you were born between the preceding midnight and sunrise of your birthday, it is a little simpler to count backward in the chart, in the direction opposite to that of the figures in the inner circle. For example, suppose your birth hour was 1:30 A.M. on April 12. Then you were born four hours and thirty minutes, or 270 minutes before 6:00 A.M. Your Sun sign falls just below 4/19 on the chart. Counting backward in the circle, allowing ten degrees for every forty minutes of time, you will place your second mark at a point about midway between the dates 1/30 and 2/8. The segment of the chart where this second mark is placed is the second subdivision of the sign Aquarius. Your Rising sign was therefore Aquarius, and the corresponding Personality Key would be Key 17, The Star.

By using the chart as explained, you can arrive with sufficient accuracy at your own, or any other person's, Rising sign. Thus you can determine easily the latent mental powers of both Individuality and Personality. These mental potencies are indicated by the key-words written in the chart. For example, suppose your Rising sign is Aries. There are three key-words which indicate the basic mental characteristics of this sign. They are: enterprising, pioneering, impulsive. If your Rising sign is indicated by a mark located in the first subdivision, or ten degrees, of the sign, you will add to these basic key-words the three designated by that subdivision: impetuous, spirited, active. If the Rising sign is indicated by a mark in the second subdivision, the key-words to be added are: exalted, enthusiastic, loyal. Thus the mental characteristics of any Rising sign may be summed up in six key-words, as well as those of the Sun sign.

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The Rising sign key-words indicate the nature of your personality, and correspond to the symbolism of the Personality Key. The Sun sign key-words indicate the nature of your individuality and correspond to the Individuality Key.

Meditate on your Personal Tableau as indicated in this lesson. Next week we will come to the end of this series of lessons, but we hope you understand that the use of these Tableaus, especially your Personal Tableau, should be a part of your meditational study for the rest of your life. ##

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

Lesson Fifty-Two

CONCLUSION

(from the transcripts of class lectures by Ann Davies)

In this course we haven't been teaching that which most people think of in relation to astrology. We have been speaking about the Cosmic Life. We have been showing the One Life in its variations of expression. Nevertheless, in essence it is all one. Analyzing our charts and understanding the principles of astrology helps us to know our place in the scheme of things; helps us to accept ourselves and others because we have come to the realization that all things are Divine Rays from the One Sun. We are each a patterned expression for the universe, for the Universal One.

This study should help you to approach each person in a different way, because you have a knowledge of the difference in types. When I first came into the work of B.O.T.A. I thought astrology was superstitious nonsense. I was concerned at that time only with the very philosophical aspects of occultism. But Dr. Case, who commanded my greatest admiration, seemed to think there was something to this study, so I decided to find out for myself. With the intensity and single-mindedness that is typical of me, I gave my attention over completely to astrology. Poor Dr. Case became quite worried about me. He was afraid I might become fanatical. I poured over books and charts night and day; I kept asking him questions. Dr. Case had had such odd experiences with astrological fanatics throughout his long career that he was understandably anxious. He had known people who would not move unless the hour was right in relation to the position of the Moon, or whatever . . . who would curl up in bed if they considered some configuration to be malefic. Being a wise man, he knew how wrong this attitude was and breathed a sigh of relief when, after three months of solid work, I finally stopped my intensive study. Almost against my will, I had to admit that there certainly was something to astrology. I was fortunate to have Dr. Case watching over me during this period, keeping me steady and balanced and giving me some very sound advice. I have found that knowing the principles of astrology has been an invaluable aid in understanding people.

We have covered the twelve basic signs with the Tarot Tableaus to help you tune into everyone — both in their positive and negative expressions. We also showed you that all these things are in you, no matter where your Sun is, no matter where anything is. We all have all of these qualities; we are a whole zodiac. It is really amazingly helpful to have this understanding, especially if you are very careful to stay away from too much prognostication. It is important not to be forever looking up astrological aspects to worry about in the future. This can be powerfully suggestive. If you have read that a certain aspect causes problems — physical, emotional or business-wise — and you see that you have a similar aspect, instantly you have accepted a suggestion. This can lead to bringing them about, as we all know. This is all right if it is a beneficent idea; but if it seems adverse, it can be detrimental to your progress and well being. We must remember that, as aspirants, we are supposed to be individualized out of the mass mind and that our reaction to an aspect should be different. Therefore, the result should be different. An occult aspirant must learn to be guided moment by moment with a sense of adventure about the future.

In this study it is best to concentrate mostly on the psychological connotations, using your astrological knowledge to help understand and overcome negative personality tendencies in yourself and others. Think of yourself as a point where the entire cosmic process gathers together to express you. The same is true of everyone else . . . of your husband, your wife, your child, your friend or your enemy. Every single thing that exists is a central point for infinity. In our work it becomes very important to do particular practices that help us gain direct experience, help us have direct realization of this idea. As long as it remains only an intellectual concept we cannot utilize it effectively. All of us know by this time that it is what we do with our consciousness that makes our world. All the forces of the universe converge in every human being, in every atom. Because our consciousness has not yet evolved to the state where we see the entire unity of this One Process, we interpret everything as though it were a separate thing. That is why we have unhappy relationships, problems with income, health, etc. It is not because the Life Force, the consciousness of God is in any way different for anyone; it is only because the personality, the evolving center of God, the unique expression that is you or that is me, has only a partial understanding.

We reason incorrectly, taking incomplete data and making the type of judgment that leads to incorrect mental concepts. We share these concepts in the world subconsciousness, the world mind. We share this together. These concepts are the basis of separateness; and in turn separateness is the basis of insecurity, fear, hatred, jealousy, condemnation. The moment we hold such an idea we tend to build it into manifest experience. All physical objects are real only as a mental concept. An electric fan standing still has many open spaces. If we throw a handful of sand toward it, some of the sand will go through the open spaces. When this fan is in motion and we throw sand against it, the solid parts are going so fast that we cannot see the open areas, nor will sand go through them. All the sand will be knocked back. There are seemingly no open spaces for the sand to go through, and yet there are. Motion has made the difference. If we saw a fan only in motion and threw sand against it, we would interpret it as an entirely solid object. Yet it would not really be solid. We would have incorrect data from which we had evaluated it. This is true of all apparently solid objects. A chair is solid to our perception because we are experiencing a certain grouping of atoms that our senses interpret as solid. Instruments applied to the chair would reveal the fact that the atoms which make up the wood are as far apart from each other as each star is from the next star in space. That is how wide the distance is relative to the size of the atom. So, a chair is solid only from a certain point of view.

This is a very important thing to bear in mind, because it will help you to get rid of the idea that your body is a resistant lump of flesh that does not respond to consciousness. In essence we are all made up of light. The fact that our consciousness experiences certain things as solid that are not really solid does not mean that we are saying that they are not real. There is a big difference. All we are saying is that we are experiencing something in a special way because our consciousness is concentrated down. Each and every one of us is a microscopic eye of God in the realm of self-experience. We are also God's Vast Eye in another way. In the light from stars we are experiencing radiations from fifty million years ago. Keep

these ideas in mind. They will help you develop the capacity for true cosmic consciousness. Even though it might take light fifty million years to get here in terms of our time sense, in essence, consciousness itself has nothing to do with time. Any place you put your attention is of this moment. There is no time involved in consciousness — only in the flow of experience. Consciousness itself is anywhere and everywhere it puts its attention. When you think of a relative on the other side of the globe, your consciousness is with that relative in that instant. This has been proven over and over again in certain types of supersensory phenomena. People have become psychically attuned to a happening far away. It does not take a certain amount of time as it does for light to travel. It does not take time for the thought or the experience to become known by the psychic person. Consciousness is in touch with anything the instant it puts its attention there. So, if you put your attention on the idea that you are a center of the infinite universe — that you are a receptive station for the One Consciousness — in that instant all the powers of the universe are immediately available to you. The reason you do not experience more of what the world might call miracles is because you do not see yourself in this way. You see yourself as something limited instead of what you really are.

In this course we have been studying the various signs of the zodiac. What are these signs really? They are imaginary marked-out areas in the heavens. We draw a line of 30 degrees and say: This is Aries. We mark off another 30 degrees and say: This is Taurus, etc. Actually we have just given a name to a group of vibrations that are continuously pouring forces onto the physical plane. We experience these forces as light, cosmic rays and other radiations. In these radiations are the substance of the Universal Consciousness, the consciousness of the twelve signs of the zodiac. Every single one of the interpretations that we gave you, like enthusiastic, loyal, spirited, exalted, etc. all belong to you. They do not just belong to somebody whose sun was in that area of the heavens at the time of birth. This just gives a little more emphasis on the qualities. The techniques and meditations related to the zodiacal Tableaus, together with your personal Tableau, are all actually meditation on your powers . . . meditations aimed at awakening you to ultimate consciousness of the ALL. Each sign has specific specializations for us, but we are all many things to many people. You have often heard me give this example. I am Ann, a teacher, a mother, a grandmother, a sister, a friend, a wife, as student, etc. I am all these expressions. Yet all the time I am also Ann. The fact that I am a mother does not take away from the fact that I am a wife, or teacher, or friend. In the same way you are all twelve signs of the zodiac. You are an expression of the cosmic mental substance which is the substance of everything. You express the Cosmos.

Scientific findings have demonstrated that physical matter is indestructable. It changes form, changing into energy, but it is still there. That which is the physical universe is the way universal cosmic substance looks to us on certain levels through our senses. Our consciousness is concentrated down into a sort of microscope, seeing in a specialized way. We are the way life sees a certain area of its activity. We are the self experience of life. Due to the hypnosis of the mass mind in which we all share, we tend to think that our body is the only way that we can be aware, even though as aspirants we are not materialistic and believe in survival. Yet how do we usually react to death? We do not really know. We believe it,

but we do not really know it. If we knew it, we could never weep for anyone who drops the physical vehicle. When we die, all that has happened is that consciousness is no longer so limited. Consciousness withdraws its concentration from a specialized area of the cosmic substance, and by withdrawing the attention it releases that field of force which holds together the cosmic substance into the shape which we call our physical body. When this occurs, where is consciousness? Where it has been all along. It doesn't go anywhere. All it does is withdraw its attention to another level of being. When you go to a movie you are all absorbed in the story being told. You lose yourself in the drama. When it is over and the lights go on you suddenly realize you are in a theater, and for a moment your own life can almost seem like a dream.

As we use these zodiacal Tableaus in our meditational periods, we gain ever more understanding of the different aspects of consciousness. All these powers are ours to express if we wake up and find out who and what we are. Because we do not know what we are, we dream we are lowly beings and treat each other in that way. These Tableaus and practices are aimed at helping us attune ourselves to the cosmic vibrations, helping us change our vibratory rate to synchronize with the universal motion. Our vibrations become ever more closely attuned to this motion and ultimately lead to the experience of Cosmic Consciousness.

These exercises are further aimed at helping you to rid yourself of the idea that you are a limited creature. As soon as you definitely experience yourself as a center of God's Beingness, then you will attribute the same miracle of essence to everyone else. You will extend it to all of life. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven". The Kingdom of Heaven is before you in the skies. We don't have to go there. What we have to do is to recognize that we are there. We live in the Heavens. We are citizens of the Heavens. We are infinite, eternal aspects of the living God.

In our next series of lessons we will study the minor Tarot Keys in their relationships to the Tree of Life, to Esoteric Astrology and to you. ##

Attached: Examination

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Proficiency Test

1. What is the basic teaching as given in this course concerning our relationship to the whole zodiac?
2. What mental functions are called into play in learning to read a horoscope?
3. (a) List the zodiacal signs that 'trine' Taurus.
(b) List the zodiacal signs that 'square' Leo.
(c) What is the 'quality' of Libra?
(d) List the water signs.
4. In reading a chart, if Aries were on the cusp of the fourth house, what other sign would be blended with Aries in considering that house? *Libra - or Cancer*
5. List all twelve signs of the zodiac by symbol, giving their rulership by symbol.
6. When the zodiac is divided into 36 parts, how are the rulerships of these divisions determined?
7. Give the location of the seven psychic centers and their astrological names.
8. What planetary power helps us break up old patterns of action and negative attachments?
9. One of the basic aims in this course of study is the achievement of a well rounded and attuned spiritual vehicle. The techniques presented in these lessons are designed to help us in this endeavor. However, besides set techniques, what must we do daily in this connection?
10. What does Venus personify in human personality?
11. In the Western Mysteries, when a new planet is discovered, what does it signify?
12. What path on the Tree of Life is associated with Pluto? Give its number, name and relationship to the Pluto vibration.
13. In your own words give your explanation of a conjunction of the Sun with Neptune in Pisces in the fourth house.
14. Give an explanation of a square of Jupiter to Mars in Cancer in the first house.
15. Give the complete Scorpio Tableau, giving names of Tarot Keys and zodiacal or planetary correspondences.
16. What positive qualities does the Cancer Tableau help us develop?

(over)

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(test continued)

17. What is the connection between coition assigned to Key 9, Yod and Virgo and the process of digestion also assigned to Virgo?
18. What is really meant by the testing and trying assigned to Key 14 and Sagittarius?
19. What qualities must this life wave develop in order to achieve a brotherhood of man?
20. Write out your personal Tableau (or that of a friend or relative) from instructions given and give a brief explanation as to what the life problem would be and what means should be taken to solve it.

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